Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-072
Monday
15 April 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-072 15 April 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Rejects Baker Proposal on Conference *[Tunis Radio]* 1
'Abd-Rabbuh Rejects Regional Conference Idea *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
PLO Follows Baker Talks With 'Extreme Interest' *[Tunis Radio]* 1
PLO Praises Palestinian Stance in Baker Meeting *[Algiers VOP]* 1
Ahmad Jibril Criticizes 'Arab Rulers' at Rally *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
AFP Reports PLO Postwar Funding Problems 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Nuclear Ties With PRC 'Exclusively Peaceful' *[APS]* 3
U.S. Claims Reported *[Algiers Radio]* 3
PRC Embassy Denies Report *[Algiers Radio]* 3
Government, Unions Make 'Significant Progress' *[Algiers Radio]* 3
Union Leader Discusses Accords *[APS]* 4
Bendjedid Receives Belgian Economic Minister *[Algiers Radio]* 4

Egypt

Paper Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel on Peace *[MENA]* 4
U.S. 'Secret Diplomacy' in Mideast Criticized *[MENA]* 5
Editorial on Delay in Protecting Iraqi Refugees *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Mubarak Addresses Koran Anniversary Event *[Cairo Radio]* 5
'Abd-al-Majid Receives Message From UK's Hurd *[MENA]* 10
Economy Minister, Delegation Depart for London *[MENA]* 10
Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 10
Palestinian Issue Viewed *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Netherlands Defense Minister Concludes Visit *[MENA]* 11

Libya

Libyan News Agency Recalls 14 Apr U.S. Bombing *[JANA]* 11
'Calls for Interference' in Iraq Condemned *[JANA]* 11
Commentary on 'Enthusiasm' for Kurdish Cause *[Tripoli TV]* 12

Mauritania

President Proposes New Constitution, Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Intellectuals Appeal for Democratic Reforms *[AFP]* 12
Trial Against Detainees 'Postponed Indefinitely' *[AFP]* 12

Morocco

'Arafat Arrives in Rabat, Meets King Hassan *[Rabat Radio]* 13
Departs 14 Apr *[Rabat Radio]* 13
Polisario Defector Criticizes Front's Leaders *[MAP]* 13
Pilgrimage Committee Adopts 'Recommendations' *[Rabat Radio]* 14

Sudan

'Aziz Arrives, Brings Letter From Saddam *[INA]* 14
Meets Al-Bashir, Departs *[Omdurman Radio]* 14
Army Spokesman Describes 9 Apr Defeat of Rebels *[Khartoum Radio]* 14
'Heavy Casualties' Reported *[SUNA]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Companies Asked To Help Put Out Oil Well Fires *[Riyadh Radio]* 16
UN Observers To Arrive in Kuwait 13 Apr *[London KUNA]* 16
Amir Receives UN Observer Mission Leader *[London KUNA]* 16
UN Envoy Interviewed on Prisoners, Oil Fields *[London KUNA]* 16

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Troops Occupied Yemeni Post *[SPA]* 17
Fatah Official Denies Political Motive for Visit *[SPA]* 17
Press Reviews Regional Peace Efforts, Baker Tour *[SPA]* 17

United Arab Emirates

USSR Envoy Says Iraqi Agreements 'Suspended' *[AL-BAYAN 11 Apr]* 17

Yemen

'Aziz Arrives in Sanaa, Delivers Message to Salih *[INA]* 18
Further on Visit *[Aden Radio]* 18
Salih, Al-Bid Meet Military, Security Commanders *[Aden Radio]* 18

IRAQ

Saddam in Irbil, Nineveh; Urges Refugees Return *[INA]* 19
Saddam, Ba'th Official Speak *[INA]* 19
Saddam Inspects Refinery, Praises Work *[INA]* 20
Addresses Refinery Workers *[INA]* 20
Saddam Greets Arab, Muslim Leaders on Holiday *[INA]* 21
Ibrahim Meets Kurdish Leaders in Irbil *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Meets Irbil Party Official *[INA]* 21
AFP Says Kurds Return *[AFP]* 22
UN Envoy Visits To Discuss Relief to North 22
Meets With Foreign Minister *[INA]* 22
Prime Minister 'Satisfied' *[INA]* 22
Hammadi Views Cooperation *[INA]* 22
Kurdish Officials Cited on Reconstruction 23
Support for Saddam Stressed *[INA]* 23
Legislative Council Head on New Session *[INA]* 23
Council Discusses Services, Needs *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Officials on Kurdish Returnees *[INA]* 23
On 'Crimes' Against Iraq *[INA]* 23
UN Chief on Iraqi Moves Toward Kurds *[AFP]* 24
Red Cross Delegation, Al-Basrah Governor Confer *[INA]* 24
Ahmad Husayn Decries Genscher's 13 Apr Remarks *[INA]* 24
'Aziz Returns From Tour of Jordan, Yemen, Sudan *[INA]* 25
Memos Sent to UN on U.S., Saudi Overflights 25
10-12 Apr Activity *[INA]* 25
More on 11-12 Apr Flights *[INA]* 25
12-13 Apr Activity *[INA]* 25
Number, Type of Planes in Iran Reported *[INA]* 26

Iran Accused of Cease-Fire Violation, Kidnapping *[INA]* 26
Envoy to UN Says Gulf War 'Not Over Yet' *[INA]* 26
Security Council President's Cease-Fire Message *[INA]* 27
Committee on 'U.S. War Crimes' Views Findings *[INA]* 27
Assembly Doubts 'Justice' of Resolution 687 *[INA]* 28
Clandestine Radio Urges Army Uprising *[VOFI]* 28
'Non-Iraqi Force' Said Formed To Defend Regime *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 28
Rebels Cable Thanks to Khamene'i, Rafsanjani *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 29
Palestinian Liberation Army Unit Said in Karkuk *[VOFI]* 29
Tehran Cites Opposition Radio on Renewed Fighting *[Tehran Radio]* 29
Uprising Fighters Capture Iraqi Colonel *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 29
'Voice of Free Iraq' Changes Name *[VOFI]* 29
Writer Urges 'Constructive Turnaround' in Media *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 10 Apr]* 29

ISRAEL

Shamir Offers Palestinians Self-Rule, Ministries *[AL HAMISHMAR 14 Apr]* 31
Agrees to Abu-'Ayyash Participation *[AL HAMISHMAR 14 Apr]* 31
Aide Elaborates on Plan *[Jerusalem TV]* 31
Proposals Reported on Arabic Radio *[Jerusalem International]* 31
Palestinians React 'Coolly' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Shamir Departs for London; On 'Autonomy-Plus' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Shamir 'Definitely Pleased' With Baker Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Shamir, Levi Brief Cabinet on Baker Visit *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 34
Baker Reneges on 'Regional Encounter' Language *[MA'ARIV 15 Apr]* 35
Levi: Reports of Next Baker Visit 'Good Sign' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Next Talks To Be 'Much Tougher' *[DAVAR 15 Apr]* 36
Arens Discusses Talks With Baker, Aid to Kurds *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Ben-Aharon on Palestinian Delegation *[Jerusalem TV]* 37
Abu-'Ayyash on Talks With Israel, U.S. Visit *[Jerusalem TV]* 38
Peres: Labor Backs Any Forum To Advance Peace *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Apr]* 39
Ben-Aharon Denies Making Remarks on Settlements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Arens on Gulf War Plan To Hit Iraqi Missiles *[HADASHOT 15 Apr]* 39
2 'Terrorists' Killed in South Lebanon Clash *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 39

JORDAN

'Aziz Arrives in Amman After Yemen, Sudan Tour *[INA]* 40
Al-Masri Returns; Jordan Not PLO 'Alternative' *[Amman Radio]* 40
Comments Further on Baker Meeting *[Amman TV]* 40
Amman TV Cites Baker Remarks 41
Conference Would Yield 'Camp David'-Style Accords *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 14 Apr]* 41

LEBANON

Birri on Ways To Resist Regional Conference *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Al-Hirawi Address on Civil War Anniversary *[Beirut Radio]* 43
'Positive' Meeting of Militia Assimilation Group *[VDL]* 44
Jibril: PFLP-GC 'Will Not' Hand Over Weapons *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44
Tawhid Leader Hails Iran for Thwarting 'Arrogance' *[IRNA]* 44
Hizballah's Al-Tufyli on Ta'if Accord, Resistance *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44
SLA Kills Two 'Terrorists' in Security Zone *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
Clashes With Israeli Troops Reported in South *[VOM]* 45
AFP Reports 16 Deaths in Southern Clashes 45

SYRIA

Further on Secretary of State Baker's Visit *[Damascus TV]* 46
Al-Asad, Khaddam Receive Lebanese Prime Minister *[SANA]* 46
Regional Issues Discussed *[Damascus Radio]* 46
USSR Deputy Gas Minister Arrives for Talks *[SANA]* 46
Cooperation Praised *[SANA]* 46

Commentary Says Israel Must Withdraw for Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Middle East Peace Must Restore 'Usurped' Rights *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Commentary on Palestinian Issue, UN Resolutions *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Al-Hasakah Governor Visits Iraqi Refugee Camp *[SANA]* 48
Economic Minister Insists on Public Sector Role *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Apr]* 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Appeals to Bush To Pressure Pakistan *[Kabul Radio]* 50
Najibullah Sends Gorbachev Message on Pakistan *[Kabul Radio]* 50
Najibullah Issues Decree on Refugees' Return *[Kabul Radio]* 50
Presidential Decree Offers Military Amnesty *[Kabul Radio]* 51
Workers Urged To Deal 'Last Blow' to Regime *[THE MUSLIM 13 Apr]* 51
Former Minister Panjsheri, Others Flee to Bulgaria *[AFP]* 52
Rebels Bombed To Preempt Attack on Jalalabad *[AFP]* 52
Further on Preemptive Strike *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
'Heavy Clashes' Reported in Lowgar Province *[Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES 14 Apr]* 53
Soviet Advisers 'Guiding' Kabul Scud Launches *[THE NATION 14 Apr]* 53
Kabul, Rebel Forces Clash in Samangan, Farah *[Islamabad Radio]* 53

Bangladesh

Ershad Accused of Private Use of Funds, Aircraft *[AFP]* 54
Two More Graft Charges Filed *[AFP]* 54
Bhutanese Foreign Minister Makes 3-Day Visit 55
Arrives With Message for Zia *[Dhaka International]* 55
Meets With Acting President *[Dhaka Radio]* 55
Talks Bilateral Trade With Rahman *[Dhaka Radio]* 55

India

National Assembly Election Schedules Detailed *[Delhi Radio]* 55
National Front Releases Election Manifesto *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Election-Related Upheavals in Janata Dal Party 56
Will Not Contest Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Top Party Leaders Resign Posts *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Party Spokesman Rebuts Criticism *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Congress-I's Yashpal Kapur Joins Janata Dal-S *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Punjab Akali Dal Party To Contest Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Punjab Government To Elect Municipal Bodies *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Reaction to Punjab, Assam Election Idea Cited *[Delhi Radio]* 57
BJP Faults Election Symbol; Advani Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Police: All Arrested BJP Leaders Released 15 Apr *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Karwar Naval Base Work Likely To Begin in 1992 *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Japan To Grant $500 Million in Aid for Crisis *[Delhi Radio]* 58

Iran

Rafsanjani Delivers First Sermon on Palestine *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Rafsanjani Delivers Second Sermon on Gulf Crisis *[Tehran Radio]* 61
President Rejects Iraqi Charges, Criticizes U.S. *[IRNA]* 66
Red Crescent Officials on Relief Efforts *[Tehran Radio]* 67

Nepal

King Birendra Calls For Maximum Election Turnout *[AFP]* 68
Communists Threaten Disruptions *[AFP]* 68
Prime Minister Receives Sri Lankan Official *[AFP]* 68

Pakistan

'Text' of Islamic Law Bill Published *[DAWN 12 Apr]* 68
Major Religious Parties Reject Shari'ah Bill *[AFP]* 71
Religious Parties Demand Replacement of Bill *[DAWN 14 Apr]* 72
Azad Jammu, Kashmir Elections Moved to 29 Jun *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Talks With USSR on Afghanistan Planned *[AFP]* 72

Sri Lanka

Women, Children Among 17 Killed by LTTE *[Delhi Radio]* 73
Security Forces Capture 2 LTTE Strongholds *[Colombo International]* 73

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Rejects Baker Proposal on Conference

LD1404165591 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Excerpt] According to Moroccan television, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has rejected the proposal by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on holding a regional conference in the Middle East. Yasir 'Arafat's position was announced in a statement distributed in Rabat, where he conferred twice with King Hassan II. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh Rejects Regional Conference Idea

JN1304123791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the head of the PLO Information Department who is in Amman on a private visit, affirmed today that the PLO rejects the formula of the regional conference that is being proposed. He described this formula as not being based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Palestinian official explained that this formula seeks to bring about separate solutions between the Arab countries and Israel and to dissociate the Palestinian cause from the Arab-Israeli conflict.

PLO Follows Baker Talks With 'Extreme Interest'

LD1404134891 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The PLO announced yesterday evening that it has been following with extreme interest the contacts and dialogue of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker with the Palestinian delegation inside the occupied territories, as well as his contacts in Cairo, Damascus, and Geneva. A statement by a PLO official spokesman, published in Tunisia yesterday, said that the PLO was studying the results of these talks and dialogues to formulate the official Palestinian stand in light of these results at the proper time.

PLO Praises Palestinian Stance in Baker Meeting

LD1204193291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] An official Palestinian spokesman has said that the stance adopted by the nationalist personalities during their meeting in occupied Palestinian with James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, emphasizes the firm commitment of the masses of the occupied territory to the Palestinian national constants.

The spokesman added that this stance, which was emphasized in the memorandum handed to the U.S. secretary and put forward by the Palestinian nationalist personalities during the meeting, should convince everyone that the primary requirement of a serious movement toward peace calls for the recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and for dealing with the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The spokesman hailed the firm stances of the masses of the occupied territory, its rallying around the PLO, and the stressing of its stubborn determination to attain freedom and national independence. He added that all parties have a duty to concentrate on the core issues, which constitute the launching pad for movement toward peace on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy. He also said that entering into labyrinths and futile arguments about the type of negotiations and conferences is rejected and fruitless.

Ahmad Jibril Criticizes 'Arab Rulers' at Rally

JN1304203291 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1637 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Speech by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, at a special Ramadan banquet marking the Front's 26th anniversary held in the Palestinian al-Yarmuk refugee camp near Damascus on 12 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May God's blessings and peace be upon the Prophet and his companions. Every year on this occasion, we hold a major rally at al-Yarmuk camp attended by thousands of our people. However, because of the situation our Arab and Islamic nations are in as a result of the Gulf earthquake, the imbalance in this nation, and the terrible events in our beloved Iraq, we chose not to stage any celebrations as a sign of mourning. [passage omitted]

We tell those who have been weakened by the Gulf earthquake that America wanted this earthquake to result in a devastating defeat for Arabs and Muslims. If you recall the events preceding the Gulf earthquake, you will be able to connect events just like a jigsaw puzzle and reach the conclusion that the United States, the forces of arrogance, and Israel arranged this thing entirely. Now they feel that they have triumphed and that the Arabs and Islamic peoples must pay the price of this war. They do not want the price of this war to be paid only by Iraq, the Iraqi people, or the Iraqi regime. They want to make everyone pay the price, from Muslim Iran to North Africa.

The Americans said they buried the Vietnam complex in the Arabian desert. Now they are the only power in the world. They are the most terrible people and rulers. They want to exploit our circumstances, because our Arab and Islamic nations have lost balance, have lost their import. All U.S. political circles say the time is now ripe. During his previous visit—not this visit—Baker did not hide this. He said the Gulf war had a positive effect because some Arab regimes developed their positions in a positive manner. He said these positions had changed. This means that some Arab regimes began to join Camp David, the policy of capitulation, the policy of liquidation. I did not say this; Baker said it.

As a result of this imbalance, they want to impose capitulationist solutions on this region. In Iraq they imposed capitulation by war, and here they want to impose on the Arab and Islamic nations a surrender without a fight. But the two cases are the same, two faces of the same coin. This nation has lost its senses, just like the drunkard who is not held responsible for his action. We say that these rulers are no longer qualified and, therefore, they cannot sign a contract or agreement to liquidate the most sacred cause in our nation and world. No Arab ruler or Palestinian leader, no matter who he is, can sell out this soil. Have they read history? Have they consulted the present generation? Have the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic people met and said that they want to give Palestinian territory to the Jews? [passage omitted]

We appeal to the nationalist regimes in the Arab homeland, led by Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad to be patient and not to help achieve what the United States and Israel want. They say that America will use the same standards it applied to Iraq. Now the Gulf war has ended. Baker and Bush said: We cannot impose a solution in the Middle East, because any imposed solution will harm all parties concerned in this region. You heard this. The UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions speak of the Palestinian people's problem. Look at the U.S. maneuvers now. They do not want the Security Council to supervise a solution to the Palestinian problem. America, a god on earth, wants to solve the problem alone and obtain a result in favor of the Zionist entity. They reject all international participation, while in Iraq's case they made the Security Council issue 14 resolutions against Iraq in a matter of months. Fleets and aircraft moved to implement these resolutions.

Resolution No. 242, which demands Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967, should not live, in their view. It is different from resolutions that are taken against us, the Arabs. I marvel at the rulers who stand up and say that America today is unlike America yesterday, that America today preserves human rights. Does preserving human rights mean uprooting millions from northern and southern Iraq? What we see now in Iraq is a result of the Gulf war. We cannot but hold Saddam Husayn responsible for this disaster, this plot, from beginning to end. We tell the Arab nationalists: Stop this American upsurge by which the United States wants to impose a solution on us within six months. [passage omitted]

AFP Reports PLO Postwar Funding Problems

NC1504094091 Paris AFP in English 0623 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Manama, April 15 (AFP)—"Yasir 'Arafat is no longer welcome in my country," a top official from one Gulf state said recently, expressing a widespread sentiment among Arabs in the conservative Gulf states which fought alongside the Western powers to eject Iraq from Kuwait. But the general resentment against the Palestine Liberation Organization's support for Iraq has not only affected the PLO chairman's travel plans. While Mr. 'Arafat, formerly a regular visitor to places like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, has not set foot in the area in eight months, the crisis has also hit the PLO hard in its pocketbook.

On Thursday a top U.S. official said he had been told by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal that Riyadh had stopped all financial contributions to the PLO, although it was continuing to support the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. Unfortunately for the PLO, Kuwait and the five other conservative Gulf sheikhdoms—Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates—were the main funders of the Palestinian organization before the war.

They were joined by two other key Arab states, Egypt and Syria, in the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq. According to informed Arab sources, the Gulf monarchies gave the PLO over a billion dollars shortly before the crisis broke out with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August. And that figure does not include substantial sums contributed personally by Gulf leaders to Mr. 'Arafat.

One of the main countries in the anti-Iraq alliance, Syria, has long been at odds with Mr. 'Arafat and the mainstream PLO which he represents. Egypt's position is more complex. While it would like to see the PLO remain on the scene, it has been openly questioning the organization's leadership since the start of the Gulf crisis. President Husni Mubarak said last month, however, that Egypt would never intervene in the PLO's choice of its leadership.

In the Gulf states, hostility to Mr. 'Arafat is much more virulent, with Kuwaitis, unsurprisingly, being the most hostile. The PLO's office in Kuwait City has yet to reopen since the crisis, and Kuwait's rulers have made it clear that they will have no further dealings with the organization.

The PLO's representative in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, admitted on Sunday that "relations with Egypt are going through a difficult phase." Mr. Kamal said the PLO was "ready to apologise to its Gulf brothers if it was proved that its position during the war had been damaging to them."

However many observers believe that a change of leadership will be required, at the least, if the PLO is to begin to regain its former standing in the region. Recently Khalid al-Hasan, one of the theorists of Mr. 'Arafat's Fatah movement, the main faction in the PLO, suggested that the leadership should be renewed "in order to confront the new reality in the region and to rectify the mistakes of the present leadership."

Mr. al-Hasan, who is known to be close to Saudi Arabia, also suggested reviving the idea of creating a Palestinian government in exile, whose members would come from outside the PLO. That could "help end the PLO's isolation," he said.

Algeria

Nuclear Ties With PRC 'Exclusively Peaceful'

LD1404120591 Algiers APS in English 1024 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Algiers, Apr 14 (APS)—Asked about an article issued on April 12, 1991 by "THE WASHINGTON TIMES" related to the nuclear sector in Algeria, an official at the Foreign Ministry said that there effectively exists a scientific cooperation between China and Algeria in the nuclear field but for exclusively peaceful ends.

The same official added that it is many years since Algeria has developed research in this field with a number of partners about which the International Agency of Nuclear Energy "recalled that Algeria was an active member of this agency and is a member of the board of governors of the same agency".

U.S. Claims Reported

LD1304134591 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] National papers today report on a WASHINGTON TIMES [as heard] article that says the U.S. has information confirming that Algeria is working with the PRC to set up nuclear installations. Here are the details from colleague Nouara:

[Nouara] The U.S. goal became clear after the war it waged against Iraq. It allied with the Western forces to search for a place which would allow them to occupy positions on the new geopolitical map. The factors are numerous, so we will only mention, among others, hegemony over the world's strategic places. To do this means destroying any force obstructing passage of this plan. This is what happened to Iraq, after they exaggerated its military power and ranked it fourth in the world.

Will the issue stop at this point? Or has the U.S. Administration got in its bag new scenarios destined to be implemented in other parts of the Third World, the Arab world in particular? How can we otherwise explain the article published by the paper THE WASHINGTON POST [as heard], which is close to U.S. right wing political circles, according to which Algeria is working on laying down a program for producing nuclear weapons with the PRC's help. The article was confirmed by Richard Boucher, spokesman for the U.S. State Department, who highlighted the danger of such cooperation.

As we do not have sufficient information to confirm or disprove such news, the question remains open on the circumstances which coincided with the publication of this article, particularly since the country's social forces are preoccupied with the democratic process, the consolidation on which they are working. Is the aim, thus, to create instability in the country so that these people will not be able to achieve its aspirations in building a stable society."

PRC Embassy Denies Report

LD1404132691 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Discussions in information circles are concentrated on an article published by the American paper THE WASHINGTON TIMES, according to which China is supplying Algeria with technology for the production of nuclear weapons. Everybody wonders: Has Algeria's turn come, after Iraq?

As is known, the PRC Embassy in Algeria denied the news item as groundless. [passage omitted]

As the daily ECHAAB says, the question put forward is: What is behind the alleged news item, and what pressures do people want to put on Algeria? Or is the desired aim to punish Algeria for its stance in supporting the Iraqi people, or can anyone avoid seeing the similarity between the calumny of the American paper and the beginning of the American and Western campaign against Iraq by exagerating alleged issues such as the huge army, the super-gun, and the destructive weapons?

The daily ECHAAB adds: Did the same provocations not take place toward Libya for five years under the pretext of conversion of a factory for chemical weapons? Is this the beginning of a provocative information war against Algeria?

The matter is in our view more than a campaign of provocation, for instance, the British military attache William M.N. Cross was caught in the region of Birine in Ain Oussera while in possession of a camera, knowing that taking photographs is prohibited in this area. This British official subsequently left Algeria at the request of the Algerian authorities. The news item was reported by AFP quoting sources which it said were well-informed.

Government, Unions Make 'Significant Progress'

LD1204182191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The negotiations between the government and the central trade union have made significant progress. The two sides have reached a final agreement on some problems and on the demands of the workers. Other promises have been made for the future.

The negotiations which lasted all this week between members of the government, led by Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche [prime minsister], and the National Secretariat of the General Union of Algerian Workers, led by Mr. Abdelhak Benhamouda, enabled the two sides to assess the agreements signed in October 1990 and examine the demands of the workers, particularly matters relating to streamlining enterprises, preserving jobs, the protection of purchasing power, social laws, the review of the national social security system, and the reform of the civil service and social services.

As regards the streamlining of enterprises, the government pointed out that this operation will continue and that this operation, which requires $130 billion, will continue on the basis of consultations and at the three levels concerned, i.e. the public treasury, the banking system, and the internal measures aimed at revitalizing the enterprises.

On the promotion of social dialogue, the two sides have agreed to hold a meeting in May this year with the participation of the public authorities, the General Union of Algerian Workers, and public and private representatives, with a view to tackling all the issues related to the economic and social situations in the country.

Regarding purchasing power, the government reiterated its previous commitments to endeavor to ensure the stability of the prices of the subsidized basic consumer goods; 27 billion Algerian dinars have been allocated to subsidize these goods, which represents 4.5 percent of the state budget.

Concerning the social laws, the two sides agreed that the issue of amending these laws should be included in the agenda in the current session of the National People's Assembly. The two sides also agree, regarding the social security system, to set up working groups whose task will be to accelerate the preparation of this file. They also expressed satisfaction with the progress made as a result of the adoption of laws concerning some public sectors and agreed to support these results by continuing their consultations on this issue.

In their statement, the two sides pointed out the shortcomings concerning the implementation of the decisions issued by the judiciary. Regarding social services, it has been agreed to raise child benefits from 40 Algerian dinars per child per month to 140 dinars. The education grant has also been raised from 25 dinars to 250 dinars for every child at schol.

Union Leader Discusses Accords

LD1404130491 Algiers APS in English 1056 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Algiers, 14 Apr (APS)—Abdelhak Benhamouda, secretary general of the Algerian Workers General Union (UGTA), gave a press conference on Saturday on the government-UGTA accords concluded on Thursday.

Benhamouda stressed that among the results reached by negotiations between the two sides, there are the unfreezing of wages of 200,000 workers of communal public enterprises and of Wilaya (province) and the financial rehabilitation of these enterprises, which are undergoing pressure from the elected local authorities.

The UGTA secretary general further indicated that by the terms of these accords, questions relating to prices and wages will be examined during a third meeting between the authorities, the UGTA, and representatives of public and private employers.

Concerning the public office dossier, Benhamouda indicated that a working group will be set up to continue consultations, stressing that the main claim of the trade-union consists in social reforms on the basis of the reform of the public office so as one reaches, he said, administrative measures leading to positive effects on the social field.

Regarding the increase of family allowances and school allowances, Benhamouda declared that it is the result of negotiations held with the government, waiting for the setting up of the working group in charge of accelerating the result of the dossier relating to the rehabilitation of the national system of social security. Benhamouda further answered questions from the press concerning guarantees for the enforcement of these accords, which the UGTA demanded during negotiations so the decisions do not require extra negotiations.

Asked about the causes of the deterioration of the standard of living of workers, Benhamouda estimated that besides the social cost of reforms, other reasons could be referred to such as unique [passage indistinct].

Bendjedid Receives Belgian Economic Minister

LD1404203491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, today received at the presidency Mr. Willy Claes, the Belgian vice prime minister and minister of economic affairs. The meeting was attended by Minister of Economy Ghazi Hidouci; the president's adviser for diplomatic affairs, Mohamed Sahnoun; and the Belgian ambassador to Algeria.

On leaving the president's office, Mr. Willy Claes, stated:

[Begin Claes recording in French followed by translation into Arabic] We have exchanged views with the aim of supporting the political and economic links between the countries of the Arab Maghreb on the one hand and the countries of the EEC on the other. Bilateral relations between Algeria and Belgium can be considered a solid and fundamental base to realize an emperical formula for cooperation, especially in the economic field, between the countries of the Arab Maghreb and some EEC countries. [end recording]

Egypt

Paper Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel on Peace

NC1304074491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM expresses the belief that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's talks in Israel have not changed Israel's stance on a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In today's commentary, the paper calls on the United States to pressure Israel into entering the peace process.

AL-AHRAM says that without U.S. pressuring Israel, whose radical right-wing government is preparing its people to go to war for the territories, the possibilities of Israel entering the peace process diminishes.

U.S. 'Secret Diplomacy' in Mideast Criticized

NC1504091491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today criticizes what it calls the secret diplomacy on the Middle East issue, noting that no details have been announced regarding the new U.S. endeavor to achieve peace in the region or U.S. Secretary of State James Baker' regional tour.

In a commentary published today, the paper says that with the exception of a few reports on a regional conference that some parties view as an alternative to the international conference, nothing has been publicly announced regarding the details of this endeavor. The paper compares this secret diplomacy to what happened during the Gulf crisis, when diplomacy was conducted publicly or semi-publicly, as demonstrated by the Security Council resolutions and their swift and effective implementation.

The paper notes that the Security Council has issued two basic resolutions on the Middle East, namely, Resolutions 242 and 338. The paper emphasizes that any new endeavors or movement within the framework of international legitimacy must strive to be committed to these two resolutions and try to seek their implementation. The sooner this is done the better.

Editorial on Delay in Protecting Iraqi Refugees

NC1504053691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 15 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the title, "A Kurdish Issue is Taking Shape," an AL-AHRAM editorial notes the delay by the concerned and major countries in handling the issue of Saddam's massacres in Iraq. Tens of thousands of victims and millions of refugees are the result of these massacres. The international community's delay in doing anything raises questions on just how interested it and the prosperous and capable countries are in urgent and pressing humanitarian issues.

AL-AHRAM goes on to say that it is unfortunate that the world community's efforts to protect these displaced persons is still awaiting the approval of the Iraqi Government. They are seeking an opponent's verdict over a humanitarian issue. The paper asks: What will happen to the refugees if Iraq continues to reject the international community's intervention, particularly since Iraq is even opposed to the air lifting of supplies to the refugees, not to mention their opposition to the establishment of U.N.-sponsored buffer or safe zones for them inside Iraq?

Concluding the editorial, AL-AHRAM reports the latest news shows that the Kurdish refugees have almost given up hope that the United Nations will intervene to rescue them. Thus, their problem will continue and deteriorate as time passes and will result in a state of unrest and disorder that could reach the Turkish and Iranian borders. Thus, as a French minister has said, a new Palestinian issue will be created that the world will be at a loss to solve.

Mubarak Addresses Koran Anniversary Event

NC1504074091 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2013 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at a ceremony marking the revelation of the Koran, in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Grand imam and Shaykh of al-Azhar, distinguished scholars, brothers and sisters.

It is a great pleasure to meet with you tonight to celebrate the anniversary of a great event, the anniversary of the revelation of the Koran to our master Muhammad, may God's prayer and peace be with him. It is the night of power, which is better than a thousand months. Therein come down the angels and the spirit by God's permission, on every errand. Peace! ...This until the rise of the morn' [Koranic verse]

I seize this opportunity, as we meet under the light of the Koran, to convey sincere congratulations on this blessed opportunity to every citizen on our good soil, the soil of Egypt, to every brother in our Arab countries, and to every brother in our Islamic nation.

I also seize the opportunity of this night illuminated with the light of the Koran, in which God's angels appeared, to salute our Armed Forces in the Gulf [applause]. I pray to God Almighty to always grant victory and glory to these forces.

I also seize the opportunity of this blessed night, in which God responds to appeals and opens the gate of paradise, to pray to Him Almighty to achieve for all of us what we aspire to in terms of security and peace, unity and amity, pride and dignity, and progress and prosperity. I pray to God that He completes His benevolence by liberating every inch of our Arab land and establish justice and legitimacy in all our Islamic countries and that He crowns our victories by solving the Palestinian issue in a just and dignified way which enables the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate rights and restore their usurped land.

Our celebration of the revelation of the Koran is a celebration of the dawn of the Muhammadan call. This must remind us that this call has brought to us an orthodox religion based on a correct doctrine, straightforward code, and noble human values.

This ceremony also reminds us of, first, what Islam has done for the Arabs, second, what it has accomplished for the world, and, finally, what Islam has done for mankind. This religion removed the Arabs from a state of ignorance and backwardness to civilization and progress. It changed the Arabs from divided tribes and disintegrated sects to a unifying nation and a united state.

Furthermore, this religion liberated the subjugated and oppressed nations. It lifted the shackles imposed on these nations by dominant countries and tyrannical empires. Hence, the world enjoyed an unprecedented degree of freedom and oppressive forces stepped down, thus opening the way to the liberating Islamic forces and the civilized Islamic state.

Islam brought the values of freedom and democracy to mankind for all generations. Islam championed justice, equality, love, and peace. Islam fought oppression and slavery; resisted discrimination and injustice; and warded off disputes, enmity, and feuds.

This noble occasion also reminds us that our nation progressed when it followed the Islamic teachings and values and declined when it denied these teachings and values. The leaders of this nation make correct decisions and score victories when they are guided by Islamic teachings and values. On the other hand, they make wrong decisions and are defeated when they deny these teachings and values or when they forge them or seek benefit from them.

Thus, the Islamic history teaches us a lesson that must be profoundly understood by our nation. Every official in this nation must also realize this lesson. The light of right shone to everyone who can see with his eyes. But the words of God are true to those who cannot see this light. Truly it is not their eyes that are blind, but their hearts which are in their breasts. [Koranic verse]

Moreover, The words of God Almighty are true to those who try to turn the splendid results we had into a controversial issue: Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that his light should be perfected. And say: Truth has (now) arrived, and falsehood perished: For falsehood is (by its nature) bound to perish. [Koranic verse] [applause]

Now that the light of justice has appeared and the darkness of falsehood has disappeared and now that God has granted victory to those who supported truth, justice, and legality and responded to the call for help, manhood, and brotherhood, a new era has begun in the life of our nation. It is the post-crises or the post-ordeal era. This era demands a complete review that will lead to a collective Arab plan which can, in the shortest time possible, prevent us from falling into old traps and repeating past mistakes and open the way to a bright future in which our nation can lead the free and dignified life it deserves and assume the great and high position for which it is qualified and through which it will be seen as the best of people evolved to serve mankind.

I believe that the plan of action necessitated by this complete review of all past events must emanate from the Islamic call. The rays of this new dawn began with the night of revelation. This plan of action must emanate from the Holy Koran and the principles of our orthodox religion. We must follow the teachings of our Koran and the values of our religion. We must pursue the path of our God, without deviation or vacillation, without distortion or alteration, and without exploiting sacred suras and holy texts for wordly and temporary purposes or false and personal motives.

During this phase in the life our nation, we must do the following:

1. We must safeguard brotherhood among the sons of our nation. We must avoid revenge, discard grudge, forget hatred, and replace them with pure fraternal love, which brings hearts and minds closer, which marshals ranks, and which introduces moral relations among us without hypocrisy or deception and without pretension or ambiguity. We must embark on brotherly and civilized relations, which are characterized by frankness and truth, which give room for quiet dialogue, and which are open to differences in view without accusations of treason, agentry, and atheism. All differences, if they exist, must be solved in a brotherly, peaceful, and civilized atmosphere that does not know aggression and that does not resort to plotting or violence. This is the method compatible with the noble principles of Islam and the civilized traditions of Arabism. Concern for brotherhood requires concern for the spirit of cohesion. All of us—individuals and groups, peoples and governments—must feel that we have a duty toward our brothers. We must feel their pains and realize their needs. We must not feel comfortable if our brothers are suffering. Our dear book has spelled out and emphasized this. God said in a short and miraculous phrase: The believers are brothers. [applause]

The Prophet, may God's prayer and peace with him, described this brotherhood in a wonderful and humanitarian way. He said the believers are as one body; if one part feels pain, the other parts also feel pain.

2. We must enable those with usurped rights to recover them. Restoring rights to their owners is a duty. God might tolerate and forgive those who neglect their duties to Him. He, however, does not forget the rights of the believers. He does not forgive those who rob others of their rights, except if the latter recover their rights or they willingly forgive and abandon them. Islam sacredly upholds the rights of believers. Defending these rights is legitimate and even a sacred duty. Our noble Prophet stressed this when he said: It is forbidden for a Muslim to shed another Muslim's blood, or to steal his money, or to violate his honor. In his farewell sermon, the Prophet said: O people, your blood and money are as sacred as this sacred day in this sacred month in this sacred country. The Prophet, may God's prayers be with him, said that anyone whose property is usurped by an aggressor must fight this aggressor. He decreed that

anyone who dies while defending his property is a martyr and that if the aggressor is killed, he will go to hell.

3. We must punish the guiltily party according to its offense so that this will be a lesson to anyone who entertains committing an offense in the future. God said: In the law of equality, there is a saving of life. [applause] Punishment must be without revenge or excess. Forgiveness and pardon must be a desired hope and not a binding duty. In the event of forgiveness and pardon, the least demanded is that the guilty party must admit its offense, re-embrace justice, and pledge not to repeat the offense. Re-embracing justice is better than persisting in falsehood and acknowledging a mistake is the quality of sincere and honorable men. We must punish the offending party according to its offense, except if a pardon takes place. God almighty said: The recompense for an injury is an injury equal thereto in degree: But if a person forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is due from God. [Koranic verse]

4. We must seek to rise above the wounds and pains left by the ordeal. This is because failing to face catastrophes would result in impotence and the continued stumble would lead to inaction and would prevent any progress and development.

Therefore and within the context of the numerous Islamic objectives, we must believe in fate destined by God so that we will not collapse by calamities or be crippled by setbacks. As believers in God's fate, we must apply his words: Who say, when afflicted with calamity: To God we belong, and to him is our return. They are those on whom (Descend) blessings from God, and mercy, and they are the ones that receive guidance. [Koranic verse] How magnificent are his words: So lose not heart, nor fall into despair: For ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith. [Koranic verse] [applause]

5. We must seek to reunite ranks and viewpoints. One of the effects of the ordeal was this division which seems like an Arab political nuclear explosion which had moved some people to a certain place and some others to another place. This explosion was not limited to some rulers and leaders but regrettably, and I repeat regrettably, extended to some writers and politicians. It even extended to parts of the masses who need unity to reunify their ranks, love to unite their gatherings, and fraternity to bind their hearts so that they would be a strike force in the field of production in an atmosphere of stability with the aim of establishing progress, development, and prosperity. We must repeat the words of God Almighty: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you. [Koranic verse] His words: And obey God and his apostle; and fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart. [Koranic verse]

Truly, we often repeat this gracious God's and Koranic injunction. But the events, and I say this with regret, prove that many of us listen to it only and do not apply it or translate it into our behavior. Today we are in dire need to listen to this shining divine call which will restore what was destroyed of our structure, renovate what was damaged of our unity, and reunify our ranks. We live in an age of major groupings and huge blocs. In other words, we are in an age where there is no room for small countries apart from the disintegrated entities or divided factions. The spirit of the age makes it incumbent upon us to seek to achieve our unity and cohesion in a bid to attain our force and our dear dignified survival. Either to be like huge mountains or like a storm-swept atom of sand and be destined to pass unnoticed and be squandered. God forbid.

6. We must become more democratic. Our orthodox religion is the religion of consultation [shura], which is the bright face of democracy. God has asked the believers to adopt it as one of the most important principles of Islam. God Almighty said: Their affairs are by mutual consultation. [Koranic verse]. God ordered his Prophet—may God's prayers be with him, who is infallible and who received His revelation—to adopt shura and not to take a unilateral opinion. God Almighty said: And consult them in their affairs. [Koranic verse]. The Prophet set a good example when he implemented this divine order and adopted shura. He sometimes accepted the opinion of the majority even if it differed from his own.

The ordeal and the catastrophes it caused would not have struck us if democracy, which permits opinions and accepts different opinions, had found its correct place. Undoubtedly, an individual sometimes makes mistakes and is not always correct. He is protected from wrong and is guided toward right by the multiplicity of views and opinions. The opinion preferred by the majority should then be adopted. Such an opinion is rarely wrong. Even if some components are wrong, it does not reach the degree of the mistake of a domineering individual, who imagines he alone is inspired and correct. In his delusions, a domineering individual imagines he is an all-powerful god who knows everything. In fact, he is a slave of God, is limited in his capability, is human in his vision, and is liable to be right and wrong.

7. We must achieve more development connected with security. There is no security without serious development, providing opportunities of work for all and preventing unemployment and disturbances caused by emptiness and idleness. There is no serious development without security protecting our achievements and gains.

We must realize that development and investment in our land is better than attempting them on foreign lands. Our countries are our strategic backyard and geographical and human borders. Our people, who represent capable working forces, can with their expertise achieve better Arab development and investment. All this must take place within a framework of brotherhood, which protects the money of others and safeguards and does not betray the rights of brothers. In addition, development and

investment on our land achieves the cooperation required among brothers. It is a positive form of integration which achieves unity.

Such integration redresses the shortages of some from the surpluses of others. We all have surpluses in some fields and shortages in others. We can meet our needs through integration and thus dispense with others—or almost dispense with them. Our freedom of action will not then be vulnerable to those who use us as markets and who deal with us as needy consumers rather than equal partners. Correct development under conditions of stability and security is the way we can liberate our will, take our proper place, and protect our dignity. We can then deal with others with our heads held high and from a position of dignity. We can then lead a proud life, a life befitting those who deserve to live greatly in the age of the great and who understand their role in the new world that is on the threshold of the 21st century.

8. Brothers and sisters, we must pursue the search for power. By this, I mean power in its broadest sense and most comprehensive aspects; I mean scientific, cultural, intellectual, economic, and military power. Our noble religion persistently and enthusiastically urges to have this might. How great and how true a divine precept is this verse: Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power! [Koranic verse] [applause]

It is very clear that power involves all elements and is not limited to the power of weapons and equipment alone. Knowledge, intellect, a strong economy, good character, and, above all, true belief are power. An efficient military power protects and defends all the above. The Gulf crisis experience has proved that our Arab countries still need to acquire the means of power, particularly military power. This created the necessity for us to seek the assistance of non-Arab friends. While we thank these friends for their succor and assistance, we hope that in the near future we will, as Arabs, possess the necessary power to defend our land, safeguard our soil, and deter any aggressor who is tempted to perpetrate aggression against us. This is an indispensable condition for Arab security so that we can proceed without suffering any setbacks and avoiding a repetition of earlier stumbles. We pray to God that the tribulations that afflicted our nation are the last ones.

Brothers and sisters, God granted us victory because we follow the principles of His religion and adhere to the values of the Koran, the start of the revelation of which we are celebrating tonight. This generous gift demands that we give thanks with greater fervor and increase our praise to Him. In my view, the practical and realistic way to give thanks is to exert ever more efforts to achieve complete victory in our internal battles, just as we achieved victory in our external battles, and to achieve the greatest victory in the major jihad after enjoying victory in the battle of the minor jihad.

Obstacles and problems face us in our country. They are among our worst enemies and they must be defeated and overcome with the same spirit with which we armed ourselves in the glorious Ramadan battle in Sinai and the victorious Sha'ban battle in Kuwait. It is the spirit of faith that propels people to work; it is work that leads to excellence; it is excellence that leads to superiority; it is superiority that achieves self-sufficiency; and it is self-sufficiency that leads to prosperity. [applause]

The lesson of the Ramadan victory in Sinai 18 years ago and the lesson of the Sha'ban victory in the Gulf this year confirm that we are able to solve all problems, remove all obstacles, and achieve the greatest victories in all fields. When the people of Egypt put their mind to something, seek God's help, praise Him always, and obey His orders to work hard, they can do miracles and achieve what is regarded as impossible. [applause] All we need is faith in our Lord, in ourselves, and in our country, and to translate this faith into uninterrupted work, good efforts, strong affiliation, firm determination, and hope that does not know the meaning of despair.

Brothers, ahead lies the battle of development and achieving self-sufficiency in food, clothing, housing, and all essential requirements of our life, so that we can prosper through our own efforts, liberate our will fully, and achieve an honorable standard of living for our people. This development battle demands redoubled efforts on our part in the fields of agriculture, industry, construction, and building. Such efforts are equal to the efforts of fighters who liberate the land and safeguard the honor. This is because such work in the various fields of development liberates our will, releases our people from the shackles of need and misery, and achieves an honorable life for them in which they can live as human beings should live, be proud of their Egyptian nationality, and rejoice in their affiliation to their country.

I consider laziness, laxity, indifference, negligence, weakness of affiliation, and wasting of time as among our worst enemies, because all this results in lower production. Lower production means we will be unable to meet our basic needs, to rise to the proper standard, and to gain access to foreign markets. It also means we will be unable to compete with those who want to outstrip us. All this causes economic weakness and burdens the people with additional debt and hardships in the search to provide the basic necessities of life.

Brothers, we also have before us the battle to reform and liberate the Egyptian economy, so that it can prosper and develop to assist the state in fulfilling its responsibility toward the citizens and in serving and caring for them by providing them with food, clothing, education, medical care, housing, communications, and security. This economic reform cannot be achieved through loans, which were essential at certain stages. It will be achieved through increasing production and improving quality, through avoiding extravagance and waste, through showing concern for public property, through paying the taxes that are due to the state, and through fulfilling all the other requirements of good citizenship by sincere citizens. This is in addition to arming ourselves with the

ethics of our true religion, such as honesty and modesty, abandoning exploitation and monopoly, and thwarting any attempt to use the efforts to fulfill the people's needs for personal gain, to covet what belongs to others, or to enrich oneself at the people's expense.

We also have before us the key problem of the population explosion, which undermines any progress, weakens every economy, frustrates every production plan, and consumes every effort. Development will not succeed, the economy will not be reformed, and production and all efforts will not be utilized properly until this destructive explosion is halted and family planning methods are firmly and seriously implemented, so that the population does not increase annually at the rate of 1.3 million new arrivals who exhaust their parents financially and physically and increase the inability of their country to care for them and to provide services to them and to others.

It is a mark of honor for our true religion that it has allowed family planning, and has even called for it as long as it is designed to avoid certain problems. Almighty God has prohibited us from courting disaster. There is no doubt that this population explosion entails a devastating disaster. Our Prophet, may God's prayer be upon him, sought God's protection against the scourge of affliction. He explained it as large families with little money. The Prophet also urged the Muslims to be strong and self-sufficient. He explained that a strong believer is better in the eyes of God than a weak one. He said: It is better to leave your children rich than to leave them poor so that they must beg from people. When the Prophet called on his followers to get married and have children so that their numbers would multiply and they would be the pride of nations on the day of resurrection, he did not mean that their increased number should reach the point of a destructive explosion or be the cause of weakness, poverty, and backwardness.

Obviously, the Prophet would not boast of weak and impotent or humiliated and needy followers. The Prophet always called for power and glory. He urged dignity and ability so that his followers would be truly the best of peoples evolved from mankind. [Koranic verse] [applause]

Dear brothers and sisters, we are also facing the problem of extremism which is undermining national unity and dividing the sons of the nation. It causes anxiety at times and spreads panic at others. In all cases, it prevents stability, spoils the atmosphere of development, and inflicts the greatest harm on the economy. In addition, it causes the shedding of innocent blood—peaceful and innocent people are killed or injured only because the extremists feel they hold different views, have a different creed, or conduct their lives in a different way. One of our tolerant religion's glorious traits is that it allows for differences of views. It even allows for freedom of belief and establishes the way for those who want to offer their views to others or who want to show others the right way. Our religion shows that the road is one of propagation through wisdom and good example. Religion cannot be imposed by force. You do not have to guide them for God guides whom He will. [Koranic verse] Religion is tolerance and those who are overzealous in applying the faith will suffer. The divine clear order is: And argue with them in ways that are best. [Koranic verse] Rectifying wrongs requires a more accurate understanding and a clearer awareness. A saying by the Prophet decided the stages and phases for redressing wrongs and showed that not every man can do this on his own. The Prophet had good reasons for saying and deciding this, because if every person is given the right to redress wrongs with his own hands, then society would become a jungle where anyone wants to attack anyone else may do so. Only those who have the right to rectify wrongs, such as the custodian, the father, the teacher, and so on, should do so. Change through argument is also permissible for those who are able to do so because of their knowledge, expertise, and position. Otherwise, the situation would deteriorate into arguments, vituperations, and rancor.

Thus we see that attempts by some extremists to force their views on others has no basis in religious teachings and Islamic traditions. This shows only an inadequate understanding of this religion or the adoption of some alien inflexible views which were born in societies that were different from our enlightened Arab Islamic societies. Islam does not know fanaticism, extremism, or violence. It does not condone hatred, enmity, or aggression but calls for sympathy, compassion, and love. It treats matters softly and gently and with a spirit of tolerance and brotherhood. This requires us all—scholars and thinkers, intellectuals and media men, parents and teachers—to spread this tolerant spirit, entrench the compassionate values of Islam, and eliminate the spirit of extremism which is alien to our relgion, corrupts our society, and undermines our unity.

On top of all this, brothers, we have the narcotics problem. Narcotics damage minds, ruin young people, and encourage crime. They also cause money to be squandered and threaten the future of the coming generations. We must wipe out this horrible enemy so that all sons of our people regain their mental alertness, their vigilant conscience, and their spiritual and physical health and so that money is not squandered, future generations are protected, and our sons do not become enfeebled, perverted, and dissolute.

In its greatness, our rational religion decisively banned all these drugs. The injunction against their use was made in word and analogy alike. The words are those of the Prophet, may God's blessings be with him, in the tradition in which he ruled against every intoxicant and every substance that saps a person's enthusiam for work. As to the analogy, it lies in the fact that these drugs affect the senses just as wine does. Indeed, they ruin health and destroy people more than wine does.

For this reason we must redouble our efforts to combat this terrible scourge which has afflicted us in recent years. It represents a criminal plot against our sons, our society, and our homeland's future. This is not the

responsibility of the security forces and counternarcotics squads alone, but of all: the home, the school, the club, and every person in a position of responsibility in every small and large group. There is no way to uproot this plague except through the cooperation, vigilance, and efforts of all. [applause]

Brothers, sisters, the failure to attain the desired standard of economic development, the failure of the economy to prosper as we wish, the stumbling block represented by the population explosion, the detrimental effects of religious extremism, and the ruinous consequences of drug addiction are the challenges against which we must carry out our greater jihad. I am confident that, with God's help, we will triumph in the arena of this jihad as we triumphed previously in our victorious battle in Sinai and as we triumphed recently in our humanitarian war of liberation in the Arabian Gulf. [applause] We will neither despair or weaken. Our battles will continue to ensure the success of economic development, reform the economy, halt the population explosion, guide against religious extremism, and combat the imported horrible enemy which spews devastation with its blue smoke and spreads black death with its white powder. Yes, we will not despair or weaken because this people's history and their victory over all obstacles in their path in the past and in the present prove that they are a people capable of surmounting the greatest difficulties and overcoming the knottiest problems. They are a noble and faithful people. All their stumblings have been transient affairs. With their nobility and faith they will inevitably correct every error and surmount every crisis. They will do this through struggle, work, truthfulness, hope, and adherence to the values of Islam and the teachings of the Koran.

Let our ceremony tonight mark the beginning of a new stage in which we will adhere more firmly to our holy book, be guided by its enlightenment, and forge ahead in accordance with its lofty values and noble teachings until we achieve victory in the battle of development and economic reform as we achieved victory in the battles of liberation.

I again congratulate our entire Arab and Islamic nation. I hope that it will realize its ambitions. I also congratulate our Egyptian family and all its dear sons everywhere. I hope that we will wage our domestic battles with the utmost zeal and spirit of sacrifice, just as we fought our external battles with all nobility and honor.

And say: Work righteousness: Soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the believers. God will not suffer the reward of any who do a righteous deed to perish. God will certainly aid those who aid His cause for verily God is full of strength, exalted in might. [Koranic verses]

Peace and the blessings of God be with you. [applause]

'Abd-al-Majid Receives Message From UK's Hurd

NC1404150591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a message today from British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. The message deals with the British Government's stand on developments in the Middle East situation and with the ongoing efforts to resolve the Palestinian issue.

The message, which is in reply to a message Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid sent last week, was handed to Ambassador Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's political adviser, by British Ambassador in Cairo James Adams.

Economy Minister, Delegation Depart for London

NC1404105291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0957 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Yusri Mustafa, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, left Cairo for London this morning. He is at the head of a delegation on a visit to Britain that will last several days to attend meetings of the European bank for Reconstruction and Development. [passage omitted]

Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1304112291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson arrived in Cairo this morning for a one-day visit. He was met at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Fawzi al-Abrashi.

Palestinian Issue Viewed

NC1304134891 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt believes that the Palestinian people are reponsible for selecting the Palestinians who will participate in the peace negotiations. He added that only the Palestinians are entitled to choose their representatives in these negotiations.

In a statement following his talks with Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that Egypt appreciates Sweden's role in advancing the peace efforts, particularly during the Geneva meeting on the Palestinian issue in 1988. He said that Sweden believes this issue and the ongoing efforts to achieve peace are important.

The Swedish foreign minister said that his country is interested in the Middle East situation and appreciates Egypt's role in implementing the UN resolutions in the Gulf. He said that Egypt's role gained the admiration of

the UN member states. He added that his country believes that the Palestinians should be represented in the peace negotiations.

Asked about PLO participation, the Swedish foreign minister said that it depends on the decision of the parties concerned, adding that Sweden considers the PLO the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Swedish foreign minister left Cairo today following a visit of several hours.

Netherlands Defense Miniser Concludes Visit

NC1204152491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Netherlands National Defense Minister Relus ter Beek and his accompanying delegation left Cairo today at the end of a five-day official visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Libya

Libyan News Agency Recalls 14 Apr U.S. Bombing

LD1404110491 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Apr (JANA)—Every year, on the night of 14 April, the doors of history open to remind us of the bold stand the Libyan Arab people took against the abortive barbaric U.S.-NATO aggression on the house of the brother leader of the revolution and on the peaceful civilians in Tripoli and Banghazi. It also reminds us of the brother leader of the revolution's wise management of the conflict to frustrate the aggressors and insure triumph of the revolutionary will of Libya and its spread throughout the Arab homeland and the world at large.

After the drug-addicted old man Reagan tried to commit his abominable crime of assassinating the brother leader of the revolution and of destroying the Arab nation's will to attain Arab unity, which the great 1 September revolution embodied and which provided support for the causes of freedom everywhere in the world, the march of unity continues with its defiance despite all the obstacles and conferences.

On historic moments: The regional border gates were brought down by the leader; passports were abolished with the Arab countries; laws were passed by the popular conferences giving the Arabs equal rights to those of the Libyan Arabs; the Arab Maghreb Union, which is the symbol of defiance, was created and stands fast in the face of plots, thereby constituting a step on the road to Arab unity; an agreement of complete integration was signed with sister Sudan; agreements on the rights of movement and residence and ownership of property were signed with sister Arab Republic of Egypt. All these provide further examples of the determination of the Great 1 September Revolution and its principles.

The great Jamahiriyah continued to bolster liberation movements, scoring well-known victories in a number of countries: independence was proclaimed in Namibia, the revolution triumphed in Chad, and colonized peoples continue their struggle for freedom thanks to the great Jamahiriyah.

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi continues to stand proudly, defiantly, leading the Arab nation toward building its might and unity and to stand by the oppressed and repressed peoples in their struggle for freedom everywhere in the world. Where is Reagan now? He has been cast in the dustbin of history, with the world relating his scandals and his corruption and the corruption of his family. Here comes 14 April to draw a distinctive line in the history of mankind and to speak of the lesson of the Libyan Arab stand versus the NATO might, which has proven that historic battles are not measured by military might but by the strength of the willpower.

The capabilities of the United States and NATO that were prepared to confront the Warsaw pact, the F-111 planes, and the bombs have not succeeded in preventing the great Jamahiriyah from playing its leading role, nor did they succeed in preventing the leader from playing his role in instigating the revolution for the sake of freedom, Arab unity, and the support of the oppressed everywhere.

'Calls for Interference' in Iraq Condemned

LD1204203791 Tripoli JANA in English 1818 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli al Tayr April 12, JANA—Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—In recent days there appeared some calls in the West, especially in Britain and other European states, to allocate part of the Iraqi territories to be a heaven [as received] for refugees in northern Iraq.

We also heard a statement attributed to the spokesman for the French presidency in which he talked about what he called "the principle of interference in other states to save the oppressed minorities and others...[no closing quotation marks as received]

In this [word indistinct] JANA's international affairs editor wrote saying:

Such calls for interference in the internal affairs of other states is a novelty in the international law which must be confronted and despised, because the principle of the sovereignty of states is sacred according to the U.N. charter and the principle of international legitimacy and that any attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of other states is considered a flagrant breach of such charter. The disputes that occurs amongst the minorities of the world are not solved by foreign intervention, on the contrary this latter thing increases their intensity and as a result the true solution is the establishment of people's authority so all can live and co-exist in security and peace and in order that a minority will not be

oppressed by the majority, the masses are equal in the people's congress and people's committees.

Commentary on 'Enthusiasm' for Kurdish Cause

LD1304223991 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] As much as we are touched by the tragedy of the Iraqi Kurds, we are astonished at the enthusiasm of Western circles for humanitarian causes, such as the cause of the Kurds. The great Jamahiriyah was the first to advocate the rights of the Kurds. At international gatherings and organizations, it called upon the countries of the world, including the Western countries, to stand up for the rights of the oppressed Kurdish nation which is suffering, in countries other than Iraq, from the attempts of these countries to obliterate its national character, to the extent of banning the use of Kurdish language, practicing segregation against them, and treating them as second-class citizens.

Where were these glowing humanitarian feelings of the West then, and where are they now as regards the tragedy of the Palestinian people, the famine experienced by the Somali people, and the racial practices carried out against the people of Africa. Is this the new world the West is dreaming of, or is it one of its fantasies designed to throw dust in our eyes?

Mauritania

President Proposes New Constitution, Elections

LD1504082391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] In a speech marking the end of the month of Ramadan delivered this morning, Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya announced that a referendum will take place before the end of this year to choose a new constitution that will be put to the people's vote. If this constitution is adopted, free legislative elections will be held to choose representatives of the people. President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya did not specify the date for these elections.

Intellectuals Appeal for Democratic Reforms

AB1304123591 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Nouakchott, April 13 (AFP)—Mauritania's military leadership was urged this week to initiate democratic reforms and to set up a commission without delay to investigate hundreds of deaths of people, mainly blacks, in police custody.

The appeal came in an open letter from 50 noted intellectuals including several former government ministers and the chairman of the Mauritanian Human Rights League, Ghali Ould Abdel Hamid. The letter published on Thursday denounced "in all its horror, the extent of the repression against Negro-African civilians and soldiers during the last few months of 1990".

According to reliable sources in the capital and the London-based organisation Amnesty International, more than 200 people were executed at the end of last year in military jails or police stations in Mauritania. Many of those killed were never put on trial and had often been tortured, according to an April 4 report by Amnesty. The report said nearly 3,000 black Mauritanians had been rounded up in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou after the authorities announced in November that they had uncovered a plot to overthrow the Moorish dominated regime of Colonel Maouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya.

The letter whose signatories also included lawyers, doctors and teachers, condemned the "inhuman and degrading treatment inflicted" on prisoners. The signatories said the "many hundreds of extra-judicial executions" and the "indescribable atrocities" inflicted on the victims had left them in a state of "stupor and consternation".

The letter called for an independent committee of enquiry to be set up to determine the responsibilities in the repression which the signatories said was "unique in the history of Mauritania". They also called for "a genuine state of constitutional rule" together with "free-ranging and broad-based debate" aimed at creating "free and democratic institutions" with "freedom of expression, opinion and association".

The letter was the first sign of coordination among Mauritania's various dissident groups and political "families". It follows a comparable letter delivered on April 4 to Col. Taya by the country's single trade union, the UTM which denounced the "genocide" of Mauritania's blacks and urged democratic reforms.

On Thursday, the president of the Mauritanian Bar announced that the trial of 64 blacks charged with conspiring against the government had been postponed indefinitely. The trial was due to open next Tuesday. More than 55,000 refugees from Mauritania are now installed on the Senegal side of the Senegal river.

Trial Against Detainees 'Postponed Indefinitely'

AB1204154491 Paris AFP in English 1526 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Nouakchott, April 12 (AFP)—The trial on state security charges of 64 Negro Mauritanians due to start here this week has been postponed indefinitely, leading lawyer Chein Ould Mouhammadou disclosed.

There was no official explanation. Mr. Chein, chairman of the local bar association, said he had seen the detainees, 15 of whom are civilians, after a special meeting of lawyers agreed in principle to provide defence

facilities. He interpreted the postponement as a bid by the authorities to calm things down during the Moslem holy month of Ramadan, which is supposed to be marked by forgiveness and tolerance.

All the detainees would have pleaded not guilty, and some would have put in question the Arab identity of Mauritania, Mr. Chein noted. He said he received their case files from the presiding judge of the special court of justice, Colonel Cheikh Ould Boida. The lawyer had no comment to offer on persistent reports here, echoed by Amnesty International, that about 200 people have been executed, or tortured to death, in connection with inquiries into the same case involving the now postponed trial.

The government said last November it had unearthed a coup plot and had arrested several hundred people, mostly in the military. Mauritania's human rights league has urged military ruler Col. Maaouiya Ould sid 'Ahmed Taya to have the matter probed by an independent commission. Moors of Arab-Berber stock comprise about two-thirds of the country's population. The minority black Africans have for some years been complaining about growing Arabisation.

Morocco

'Arafat Arrives in Rabat, Meets King Hassan

LD130421019l Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] King Hassan II received Yasir 'Arafat, head of the State of Palestine, at the Royal Court this evening. 'Arafat was accompanied by Abu Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Hakam Balawi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia; and Abu Marwan, Palestinian ambassador to Morocco.

On the Moroccan side, the meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Ahmed Bensouda, his majesty's adviser. The Palestinian president arrived in Morocco this evening. Abdellatif Filali and Abu Marwan received him at Rabat-Sale Airport.

Departs 14 Apr

LD1404235891 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] President of the State of Palestine, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, left Morocco this morning at the end of a short visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II.

Polisario Defector Criticizes Front's Leaders

LD1204174291 Rabat MAP in English 1206 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 12 (MAP)—Abdellahi Ould Bouh, former member of the political bureau of the "Polisario" front came back to Morocco Wednesday in response to King Hassan II's call that "the homeland is clement and merciful".

In a statement to newsmen, Ould Bouh explained the motives behind his decision to return, stressing that "with the passing of time, the changes taking place in the world, the urgent needs of the region and the agony of the population in the Tindouf camps, all these factors brought me to the conclusion that it might be a crime on our part to continue seeking the setting up of a non-viable tiny state in the Sahara".

"I want all the Sahrawis to come back home", said Ould Bouh who went on criticizing the Polisario leaders who, according to him, "have always missed the bus".

"They do not have a political vision: the world has changed but they understood nothing", Ould Bouh said, adding that dissension has been running high within the Polisario leadership since 1988.

Most of the Polisario senior staff want to go back to the homeland but they stay in the camps to protect their families from retaliation measures, said Ould Bouh whose wife and four children are still held in a Tindouf camp.

"I challenge the Polisario to open the gates for 48 hours", he said, accusing the Polisario of violating human rights.

Born in 1957, Ould Bouh had his first contacts in 1973 with some activists preparing then for the setting up of the "Polisario" front. After military training he was appointed in 1974 political commissioner in charge of propaganda in the newly set up first military region.

Elected member of the Polisario political bureau in 1978, Ould Bouh undertook a number of missions abroad and in 1985 he became secretary general of the "Polisario Labor Union". In 1988, he was among the ten Polisario officials to sign the collective resignation manifesto, along with the former Polisario founder member Omar Hadrami.

The "Polisario" separatist front, set up in 1975, was claiming sovereignty over the Moroccan Saharan provinces formerly under Spanish rule. After it failed to impose itself on the military level, the Moroccan Armed Forces having courageously defended the Kingdom's southern provinces, it accepted the organizing, under the UNO aegis, of the self-determination referendum proposed by King Hassan II. The UN secretary general is currently finalizing the modalities for a cease-fire and for the referendum.

Pilgrimage Committee Adopts 'Recommendations'

LD1204175691

[Editorial Report] Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 12 April carries a three-minute announcer-read report on the pilgrims' quota announced by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. The announcer says that the ministry's announcement to those planning to perform pilgrimages says that the royal committee in charge of organizing pilgrimages had held its first meeting on 4 April under the chairmanship of the Minister of Islamic Affairs.

The following decisions and recommendations were adopted: (1) The number of pilgrims for this year was set at 20,000. (2) Travel agencies are to be limited to 2,500 pilgrims each. The Ministry of Tourism will allocate officials to monitor the agencies. (3) The registration of pilgrims is to begin on 17 April in the governorates and provinces. (4) Travel documents are necessary. (5) Pilgrims will be limited to transfer a minimum of 10,000 dirham and a maximum of 14,000 dirham for those who are part of official delegations, and a minimum of 10,000 dirham and a maximum of 16,000 dirham for those who are making arrangements with travel agencies. (6) Price of return tricket to the holy places will be set at 7,250 dirham. (7) Royal Air Maroc bureau, to be opened in Mecca, and officials will facilitate the pilgrims' return. (8) A special bureau will be established to provide services and pilgrimage information for Moroccans who are resident abroad.

Sudan

'Aziz Arrives, Brings Letter From Saddam

NC1304121291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, envoy of President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Khartoum early this morning on an official visit to Sudan. In an arrival statement, the president's envoy said that he is carrying a letter from President Saddam Husayn for his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese command council of the National Salvation Revolution, dealing with bilateral relations.

He said that he will also convey the president's greetings and appreciation to the Sudanese leadership and people for the courageous stand they adopted in supporting Iraq and opposing imperialism and Zionism. At a news conference held upon his arrival, Tariq 'Aziz noted that joint Arab action has been resumed within the framework of the Arab League. He said, however, this action should be based on a sound foundation in a pan-Arab direction and on the basis of the Arab League charter and the Arab nation's interests.

The deputy prime minister condemned the colonialist and imperialist forces which continue to plot against Iraq in order to harm it and jeopardize its unity. He said that these forces took advantage of the sedition and what is labeled as the "Kurdish refugees" who, in fact, are not refugees but who have been forced to leave their towns and villages by the saboteurs.

He emphasized that the Iraqi leadership has secured for these people the chance to return to their towns and villages and ensured all means of an honorable life for them. He said that 13,000 Kurdish citizens recently returned to the city of al-Sulaymaniayh.

Meets Al-Bashir, Departs

EA1304213091 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi deputy premier, left Khartoum this evening after a one-day visit to the country during which he conveyed to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn concerning bilateral relations, and greetings to Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir and his colleagues in leadership and to the people of Sudan for their genuine pan-Arab stands during the war.

During the meeting with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, Tariq 'Aziz touched on the Arab situation and the need to strengthen joint Arab cooperation on a sound foundation in the higher interests of the Arab nation away from foreign designs. He clarified that the foreign designs [words indistinct] the will and hegemony over the region. [passage omitted]

Army Spokesman Describes 9 Apr Defeat of Rebels

EA1304085491 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Apr 91

["Text" of statement by Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, director of the Morale Orientation Department and Armed Forces' spokesman, on annihilation of rebel ambush in western Equatoria on 9 April]

[Text] During this holy month of Ramadan, your Armed Forces have been busy fighting the renegades and rebels, enemies of the homeland, with the spirit befitting men, so as to restore peace and security and to confirm that our brave people are behind them. We announce the following news: Our forces succeeded in annihilating the rebels' ambush in western Equatoria on 9 April. God helped our victorious forces and made them succeed in seizing the following: four big trucks full of medicine and ammunition in good condition, a 37 mm piece of artillery, a 23 mm piece of artillery, a 23 mm four-barrel artillery, a 23 mm two-barrel artillery, a 120 mm mortar, an RPG-7 rocket launcher, five Kalashnikov rifles, four G-3 rifles, in addition to a large quantity of ammunition for these weapons. The enemy suffered a great number of dead and wounded. Six of our valiant forces were injured.

'Heavy Casualties' Reported

EA1204100891 Khartoum SUNA in English 1048 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Apr (SUNA)—The Armed Forces has inflicted heavy casualties on the outlaws in western Equatoria area on (?9th April). The Armed Forces' spokesman, Maj-Gen 'Ali 'Abdallah Uwaydah, said that the Armed Forces gained great numbers of arms, equipment and ammunition in addition to different kinds of medicines belonging to many voluntary organisation. The speaker further stated that the Armed Forces destroyed a land cruiser car. The outlaws left behind them great numbers of dead and wounded, while six of the Armed Forces were wounded.

Kuwait

Companies Asked To Help Put Out Oil Well Fires

LD1304190291 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Dr. Rashid al-Umayri, Kuwaiti oil minister, has announced a new strategy for putting out the fires in the oil wells in his country within seven months instead of two years, at a cost not exceeding $430 million.

At a news conference in Kuwait today, Dr. al-Umayri said that he will ask non-U.S. companies and government agencies to join the U.S. fire fighting companies currently working in Kuwait to extinguish the fires. Dr. al-Umayri refused to predict a date for the resumption of Kuwaiti oil production. He said that extinguishing the fires in the wells quickly will protect the Kuwaiti oil reserves and will also reduce the damage to the environment in the region caused by these fires.

UN Observers To Arrive in Kuwait 13 Apr

LD1204202691 London KUNA in Arabic 1926 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] The United Nations, 12 April (KUNA)—It has been announced here today that a preliminary team from, UNIKOM, the international mission in charge of supervizing the border between Iraq and Kuwait, under the command of Austrian General Guenther Greindl, will arrive in Kuwait tomorrow.

A spokesman for the international organization said that the team, which will fly on board a UN plane, is scheduled to arrive in Kuwait today, and that it is in Amman at the present time where it will spend the night before heading for Kuwait tomorrow.

General Greindl will meet in Kuwait with government officials before heading for Baghdad to hold similar talks with the Iraqi authorities. The spokesman said there is no specific timetable for these consultations but it is expected that General Greindl will not deploy his forces in the demilitarized region on either side of the border between the two countries before these consultations have been completed. The preliminary team comprises 30 officers and political advisers, and a board for administration and supplies.

Amir Receives UN Observer Mission Leader

LD1404132591 London KUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Apr (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received here today the commander of the UN mission for the observation of the borders between Kuwait and Iraq, Austrian General Gunther Greindl, and members of his delegation on the occasion of his assumption of his duties. The audience was attended by Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin. Gen. Greindl arrived here yesterday, accompanied by a team of 14 to prepare for the implementation of the task entrusted to him under UNSC Resolution 689, which provides for the creation of a UN observers force. More members of the mission are due in Kuwait today. They will be deployed over a distance of 240 kilometers, to a depth of 10 kilometers, inside Iraqi territory and 5 kilometers in the Kuwaiti territory, along the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders.

UN Envoy Interviewed on Prisoners, Oil Fields

LD1304145991 London KUNA in Arabic 1237 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Dubayy, 13 Apr (KUNA)—In an interview with the Dubayy newspaper AL-BAYAN, published here today, Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, the permanent Kuwaiti delegate to the United Nations, affirmed the Kuwaiti Government's insistence on the full implementation of the agreement on the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. He said: "Unfortunately, the Iraqis have not shown any cooperation regarding the UNSC resolution on the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners and are still procrastinating in this regard." He added that the Iraqi authorities have declined to give full details about these prisoners despite the constant efforts exerted by the International Red Cross in this respect. He added: "We hope that, with the cooperation of the International Red Cross, we will put an end to the tragedy of those innocent prisoners." He pointed out that if Iraq was really anxious to improve its image, then it should release all the prisoners without any such open procrastination.

Regarding the position of some nationalities, including the Kurds in Kuwait, Abu-al-Hasan said: "We look upon all nationalities in Kuwait on the basis that anyone who had cooperated with the aggressor cannot have any place among us and will be deported from Kuwait in accordance with its laws, which will be applied to all alike." He added: "It is not in Kuwait's character to seek revenge against honorable people, and, indeed, it is an honor for us to have the honorable people remain with us as has been the case so far."

He said that the Kuwaiti Government has its own priorities with regard to the offering of help, and it will provide such help first to its own people, who have been robbed of everything by the Iraqi regime.

On the demarcation of borders with Iraq, Abu-al-Hasan said the borders were delineated since 1932 and were further corroborated by the 1932 agreement between Kuwait and Iraq. "But, Iraq has reneged on the agreements. The UNSC cease-fire resolution, however, has decided the matter once and for all on the basis of the 1963 agreement. Thus, Kuwait will retrieve its occupied

territories, such as Umm Qasr and the Kuwaiti al-Runaylah oil fields from the hands of the Iraqi regime." He said that the retrieval of these territories will increase Kuwait's area, and we consider them new territories that were not there in the past.

Abu-al-Hasan added that the meeting which will be held on 25 April will lay down the final steps for the demarcation of the borders with Iraq, "and we are awaiting the peace-keeping forces which will begin to arrive in Kuwait during the coming days to safeguard the cease-fire and insure implementation of the UN and UNSC resolutions in this regard."

He said that Kuwait "will not permit any member of other nationalities and communities to leave before investigating them to punish those who cooperated with the Iraqi occupation and will permit the others to leave if they so wished after establishing their innocence." He added that, "at present, the state of Kuwait will safeguard the rights of all citizens and residents alike and will provide services to all the nationalities in the country without fail, contrary to what some claim."

Abu-al-Hasan pointed out that the reparations fund set up by the UNSC to deal with the questions of looting and pillage to which Kuwait was subjected at the hands of Iraq, will grant reparations to all those who suffered from the Iraqi occupation, be they Kuwaiti nationals or residents in Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Troops Occupied Yemeni Post

LD1504092191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0905 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Riyadh, 15 April—A responsible source has refuted an AFP report yesterday quoting a Yemeni paper's allegation that Saudi troops occupied al-Baq'ah border post in northwest Yemen two weeks ago. The source told SPA that "the report is totally fabricated and has no foundation of truth whatsoever."

Fatah Official Denies Political Motive for Visit

LD1304075491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0107 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Jeddah, 12 Apr (SPA)—Member of the Fatah Central Committee Hani al-Hasan made the following statement to SPA today: In denial of a broadcast by London radio on Thursday [11 April], saying that my current visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was of a political nature, and as an explanation of the truth I would like to point out that I have come to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the intention of performing the 'umrah [minor pilgrimage], and for no other purpose. Ramadan is a month of worship and closeness to God. It is natural for me to be in the vicinity of God's holy house during these holy days, as I do every year.

Press Reviews Regional Peace Efforts, Baker Tour

LD1304135791 Riyadh SPA in English 1226 GMT 13 Apr 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Riyadh, April 13, SPA—Saudi daily papers today spared editorials to comment on the current situation in the region in view of the recent tour made by the U.S. secretary of state, the situation inside Iraq and the plight of the Kurdish refugees.

AL-YAWM, published in Dammam said as the cease-fire resolution has been officially implemented, the logic of force and fighting has come to an end to pave way for a new phase of dialogue and negotiation in the Arab Gulf region. The paper made the point that the elimination of mass destruction weapons in Iraq and the entire Middle East would be a pressing matter during the post-war era. AL-YAWM called on the international community to exercise pressure to enforce Israel to adopt a flexible position on the current peace efforts in the Middle East.

Commenting on Mr. Baker's recent tour in the region, 'UKAZ of Jeddah said the international community should give more attention on the pressing issues raised during the tour. The paper said the world should not miss the unique opportunity amid a widespread optimism over the possibility of finding an acceptable settlement in the Middle East in the framework of the long awaited international conference under the auspices of the United Nations. While the Arab states have shown an increasng desire for a peaceful settlement to the Arab/Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question, the Israeli position is not so much optimizable, 'UKAZ said.

AL-MADINAH AL-MUNNAWARAH, also published in Jeddah urged the Arab world to deal effectively and constructively with the new international order.

AL-BILAD, published in Jeddah, demanded that the inhuman and suppressive acts against the Iraqi Kurds should immediately stop. The paper said the civilized international community should not stand indiferent watching what is happening to the innocent Kurds who should be protected from the criminal acts.

AL-NADWAH of Makkah and AL-JAZIRAH of Riyadh welcomed efforts under progress to establish peace and stability in the Middle East and the two papers said the world is now heading for a more peaceful era in the region in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

United Arab Emirates

USSR Envoy Says Iraqi Agreements 'Suspended'

JN1404181591 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 11 Apr 91 p 14

[Excerpts] Shahin Afandiyuv [name as published], Soviet charge d'affaires in Kuwait, will leave Abu Dhabi

today for Kuwait to reopen his country's embassy there. The embassy was closed because of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August.

At a news conference yesterday afternoon in Abu Dhabi, Afandiyuv said he expects Ernest Zverev, Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, to leave for Kuwait at the end of this month to resume his duties. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the present situation in Iraq, the Soviet official said that it is very dangerous. He said his country thinks it is necessary to stop the fighting between government forces and opposition and to resolve the problems between the two. However, he made no mention of the need to topple the Saddam Husayn regime to stop the massacres against the innocent factions of Iraqi opposition. He reaffirmed that his government wants to see Iraqi territorial integrity maintained.

On the Soviet position regarding the comprehensive technical and military cooperation agreement signed with Iraq, the Soviet official said that this agreement has been completely suspended in observance of UN and Security Council economic resolutions. [passage omitted]

Yemen

'Aziz Arrives in Sanaa, Delivers Message to Salih

NC1204131491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Sanaa, 12 Apr (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy and deputy prime minister, delivered a message from his excellency to his brother, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, during a meeting here last night.

The two officials also exchanged views on developments in the Arab arena, the current situation in the region, and the fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries. The deputy prime minister arrived in Sanaa from Amman yesterday on a visit to the Republic of Yemen as part of his tour of a number of Arab countries.

Further on Visit

EA1304195691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Brother Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi deputy premier, left Sanaa yesterday [12th April] afternoon after a two-day visit to our country during which he delivered a letter to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, from his brother, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The letter concerned developments in the Arab arena.

In a statement to the Yemen news agency, SABA', brother Tariq 'Aziz stated that he discussed with the brother chairman of the Presidential Council the strong fraternal relations between the two countries, the prevailing situation in the Arab region after the U.S.-Atlantic aggression against Iraq, and the continuing attempt to inflict harm on the Arab nation. He pointed out that the two countries' views were identical on safeguarding fundamental issues in Arab life.

He was seen off by brother Brigadier Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, deputy premier for security and defense affairs and the Presidential Council's commissioner on protocol; and brother 'Abd-al-Husayn al-Rafi'i, the Iraqi ambassador to our country.

Salih, Al-Bid Meet Military, Security Commanders

EA1204221091 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The democratic meetings being held by the political leadership with different sectors of the people during the evenings of the blessed month of Ramadan ended the day before yesterday.

Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, met the brother commanders of the Armed Forces and security. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council; 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council; the deputy premier for defense and security affairs; the minister of the interior; the minister of defense and the chief of the general staff.

The brother president spoke at the beginning of the meeting, when he welcomed the participants and congratulated them on the conclusion of the blessed month and the coming 'Id al-Fitr. He said: We are happy to meet our colleagues and comrades-in-arms today in this hall, Unity Hall, which witnessed the decisive unity meeting on the political unity of the Yemeni homeland on 27th Ramadan last year, when agreement was reached on all unification schemes and laws and on the date for the declaration of the Yemeni Republic.

Today we meet as fragmentation has ended for ever, thanks to the efforts of the sincere among the people such as the higher, middle, and lower leaderships and all those who contributed to the achievement of this great strategic goal. The brother president said: How happy we are today to meet as colleagues and comrades-in-arms. Whereas, in the past, every one of you used to turn his gun against the other, today you are aiming your guns at the enemies of unity, independence, and the homeland. Your loyalty should be to God, the homeland, and the revolution, not to any particular individual or group. Your total loyalty should be to the Yemeni people and land. Here you are meeting within the framework of this great establishment, which is the symbol of national unity and where the people join without discrimination or classification.

Saddam in Irbil, Nineveh; Urges Refugees Return

NC1404014991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2244 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—President leader Saddam Husayn today visited the city of Irbil, the center of the Kurdistan autonomous region. His excellency met with Deputy Governor Muhammad Muhyi-al-Din, the secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party branch, and a number of the governorate officials at the governorate building.

His excellency heard a detailed report of the state organs' efforts to rebuild the public and private buildings destroyed by the demagogues. The president explained further his valuable instructions on the state organs' role in facilitating the reception for the returning citizens and explained the administrative organs' instructions on extending services to them and facilitating their return.

President leader Saddam Husayn also visited Nineveh Governorate. His excellency performed the afternoon prayers in the al-Nabi Musa Mosque. His excellency greeted the sons of the city of Mosul who massed to welcome his excellency, reiterating their pledge of loyalty and love to his excellency and his historic leadership. [passage omitted]

Saddam, Ba'th Official Speak

JN1404081591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Irbil, Mosul, 14 Apr (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn yesterday visited the city of Irbil, the capital of the Kurdistan autonomous region. His excellency met with Deputy Governor Muhammad Muhyi-al-Din, the secretary of the Irbil Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and governorate officials at governorate offices. [passage omitted] Following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's speech in Irbil Governorate:

I have gone as far as talking with the security services over the radio, telling them to leave the Kurds alone and not ask them even a single question. It is the devil's temptation. The devil is always with man. We are not worried about the agents because an agent is an agent; he slips and abandons all values and human and national criteria. But by the devil's temptation, I refer to those people whom you called the demagogues. I also call them this, those who fell under the influence of the devil. Anyway, what is past is past, and we are starting over again.

After the plot of October, we started our party in 1963 with one, then two, then three, then four persons. Then it became a party and remained so until it split in 1964 after we were imprisoned. We started anew. We escaped from jail and started the party once more. The party then carried out the revolution. At this hour we are starting anew. Let us think that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has just staged the revolution and that 30 July is now with us again. Let us start with ourselves. Let us start with the people. Let us stand with the party once again so that the country again can have glory, prosperity, self-confidence, and confidence in the capabilities of its sincere men and women; and all this will be stories from the past.

The painful side is painful, and the glorious side and the rights of the glorious people also are a source of pride for all Iraqis.

Your role is to tell those remaining people who are still influenced by the propaganda of the agents telling them that the authorities are going to take revenge against them—tell them for me that the orders the authorities have received are very clear: go after the killers, who violate the people's honor, and those who stole the state's assets and have not returned them. We give no guarantees to these people.

As for those who were forced to leave and those who marched with them in a demonstration, shouting to appease them, we have nothing against them. The heart of the one who acted wrongly is eating away at him because of his unjustified misconduct. This is it. They return. Each one returns to his country, home, and relatives so we can start again. We have learned how to start again. Praise be to God. God willing, we will start again.

The secretary of the Irbil Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party said that, since the first day upon entering the governorate and liberating it from the mob, we have been working along this course. We have explained to all those we met that the leadership's decision is clear: The authorities will only pursue the killers, thieves, and violators of people's honor.

He added that at the instructions of 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy secretary of the Ba'th Regional Command and Armed Forces deputy commander in chief, a committee was formed from the party, government, and the security and intelligence services to attract the largest possible number of citizens through various means to bring about their return and help them live in stability and tranquility in the governorate.

The secretary of the Irbil branch added: Many measures were taken on this path. God willing, we will implement your directives. We are earnest in making the people realize this is their authority, and that Your Excellency's efforts are in their own interest. All those I met expressed regret, because they all were harmed. When the state is harmed, the citizen also is harmed.

The citizens' homes, not just state institutions, were destroyed, and many homes were robbed and damaged.

After the destructive, mob-encouraging elements were expelled in a day or two, the government prepared quantities of flour and fat. The situation was tragic.

Concluding, the secretary of the Ba'th Party Irbil Branch said: Sir, God willing, we will overcome the ordeal in your presence and at your directives.

Saddam Inspects Refinery, Praises Work

JN1404174891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1708 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn inspected work today at the al-Dawrah refinery to rebuild and repair what was destroyed by the brutal bombing carried out by 30 states against Iraq.

During his tour of the refinery and his meeting with the director, engineers, and workers, the president was briefed on the role of the refinery and its production capacity of oil derivatives, which, together with the production of other refineries that will be repaired, will cover the local market's needs in the coming weeks.

The president expressed thanks and appreciation for the remarkable work being carried out by workers in the refinery and other establishments. This work, he added, surprises everyone who knows the meaning of technical work and of will in the right place.

His excellency added that the Iraqi citizen has unique energy and that when he acts sincerely, he creates. He added that construction does not only provide prosperity for the people, but also makes a coherent and balanced personality in terms of thought and behavior. He said that when work is accompanied by noble motives, it becomes a form of worship.

His excellency added: In today's world no one solves others' problems. It is the citizen who solves his country's problems through his correct vision and sound behavior.

He added: It is this spirit that they fought against, and as they failed to destroy it inside you, nothing of what happened will achieve that goal.

Addressing the workers, the president said: What you have accomplished not only surprises those who wish harm on Iraq, but also surprises the Iraqis themselves.

Addresses Refinery Workers

JN1504063791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—The following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's address during his inspection of the al-Dawrah refinery on 14 April:

This work will not only surprise the people who harbor evil for Iraq, but will also surprise the Iraqis themselves. When we tell Iraqis that in the sixth month [June] they will be supplied as much gasoline as they want, as before, with no rationing, it will be a big surprise for them. They did not expect this to take place; they thought it would take years. They imagined that foreign assistance would be needed, and that this required the lifting of the blockade. Some people thought that the lifting of the blockade and the arrival of foreign assistance would take three years; others thought it would take two; and a few thought one year.

[illegible] confidence in the Iraqis and because I know when an Iraqi acts sincerely, he creates. Even the destruction here is different from the rest of the world. It is bad, but it is also an expression of energy. The Iraqi's energy is unique even in destruction. God willing, we want this energy to be directed toward construction, because construction not only provides prosperity for the people, but also makes a coherent personality. The personality of one who works all the time is straighter than that of one who works half the time or three quarters of the time. The personality of one who works all the time will be straighter, more coherent, and more balanced in terms of thought and behavior. When work is accompanied by noble motives, it becomes a form of worship.

This is the kind of spirit which they fought, the spirit which was the cause of a war waged by 30 countries. Hence, when they fail to defeat this spirit within you, all that happens will fail to achieve their purpose.

We rejoice more when we learn that our work is dependent on Iraq's capabilities. This gives us reason for rejoicing because it is far better than if you were to say that we had accomplished it after the blockade had been lifted, and after we had managed to import the basic requirements and equipment needed. When you depend on Iraq's own capabilities, this spirit will open up vistas for the future, vistas that will not be closed, God willing. Work and construction safeguard the future. As for other things which turn into a stage that has to be lived through and experienced, they constitute an emergency situation. But it can still be said that man's basic duty is to work and build to make his country prosper and his people happy. Your endeavors will be blessed, God willing.

Man should be willing to sacrifice his soul for his country. Therefore, it goes without saying that he should give his country the time needed for construction.

The concentration of efforts is immense, because cadres become weak when they are not part of a collective effort. We have not reached that phase when each place can act independently. The only method that is right for us is that of mobilizing efforts. When there is a gateway that needs to be opened or a loophole that needs to be closed, we can mobilize all of our efforts and consequently close this loophole or build that gateway. Afterward, we can divide work, each according to his own duties. With the growth of the workforce, each member of the workforce occupies his proper place.

The Iraqis criticize the man who does a poor job by saying [words indistinct]. When you want to straighten him out, more time is required. Efforts should be made so that the person will be enthusiastic for discipline and high accuracy in his work. Thus, it was said: Teach them when they are small. When a person is correctly prepared at an early age, he will achieve the expected results.

This, therefore, is the new spirit of the people which both men and women demonstrate. We appreciate the fact that a woman's circumstances are more difficult than

those of a man. But the woman is a member of society, and she can carry out certain assigned duties, especially during the current national situation.

The citizen who performs field work serves the people, and wherever there is awareness, there is determination. The man who works in the field undoubtedly must possess the same determination to care for the family and manage its affairs. Work in this field is meant to serve society, which is larger than the smaller family. When there is awareness there is determination, and when there is determination, there is the desire to work.

In today's world, no one will solve others' problems; you have experienced this. The bad person's only role is to be exposed. [sentence as received] The citizen solves his country's problems through correct vision and sound behavior.

God the Almighty taught us to thank him saying: If ye are grateful, I will add more favors unto you. In fact, God does not need thanks from one of his creatures, and it is my belief as a citizen that he means to teach and educate us. He means to say that since I, your God who created you, am reminding you to thank me, then it behooves men to thank one another.

It is from this spiritual angle and the practical aspects connected with it that I express my gratitude to you. Furthermore, we all thank one another, although we are all serving the people and the nation.

In this sense, I am grateful to you and God bless you all. Despite the fact that what you have accomplished has surprised even those who realize the meaning of will-power and scientific and technical work, I expect more from you because my trust in you is higher than the level you have attained.

Defense Minister Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan and Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi, minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister, accompanied the leader president on his inspection tour.

Saddam Greets Arab, Muslim Leaders on Holiday

JN1504130791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, President Saddam Husayn has sent congratulatory cables to a number of Arab and Muslim kings and presidents. His excellency sent congratulations to:

His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Presidential Council; Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al- Bashir, chairman of the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution in the Republic of Sudan; Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia; Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, president of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, president of the Republic of Maldives; and Suharto, president of the Republic of Indonesia.

Ibrahim Meets Kurdish Leaders in Irbil

NC1204143791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1409 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, this morning met with Baha'-al-din Ahmad, chairman of the Legislative Council, and Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, chairman of the Executive Council of the autonomous region, in Ibril Governorate in the north of the country.

During the meeting, which was attended by a number of governorate officials, Ibrahim stressed the need for speedy and redoubled efforts to meet the basic requirements for a return to normal life among the citizens of Irbil Governorate and to provide all forms of assistance to families returning to the city.

Ibrahim underscored the importance of resolute work to rebuild the destruction resulting from the imperialist-Zionist aggression against our dear country and from the attacks on public and private property by the traitors and mercenary agents.

Chairmen of the Legislative and Executive Councils presented a detailed briefing on the work that has been carried out. They pledged to work and to sacrifice to safeguard the gains achieved by our Kurdish people under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn during the glorious revolution. They also pledged to oppose the imperialist-Zionist schemes seeking to undermine the unity of our great Iraq with great firmness.

Meets Irbil Party Official

NC1204193891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Irbil, 12 Apr (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy secretary of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has visited the command headquarters of the party's Irbil branch and met with the branch's secretary.

Ibrahim affirmed that what is required now is for the party to assume its leading role in tackling the extrordinary problems, to work with fervent enthusiasm and persistence to rebuild the public and private property burned and destroyed by the agents, hooligans, and traitors, and to restore security and stability to citizens in the city.

He added that it was a great honor for Iraq and the Iraqis to resist the conspiracy that sought to destroy Iraq. The second stage of this conspiracy has failed to undermine our great Iraq, which embodies the national revival of the entire Arab nation.

AFP Says Kurds Return

NC1404074391 Paris AFP in English 0632 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Irbil, Iraq, April 14 (AFP)—Weary Kurdish civilians who fled this northern Iraqi city in fear of reprisals and of a showdown between troops and rebels are slowing returning home, two weeks after Irbil returned to government control.

President Saddam Husayn, who visited here on Saturday, pledged that people who fled north would have nothing to fear if they returned, the official Iraqi News Agency reported. "What is past is past, and we are starting again", he was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile for the minority who stayed behind, the wait still goes on.

"I was too old to leave. But all my family fled, walking north," said a man wearing traditional Kurdish costume and holding a bicycle. "I have no news from them, and I wait for them every day."

He said people had started coming back home on Monday.

The exodus started March 31, two days before government troops entered Irbil, one of the three largest Kurdish cities, around 350 kilometres (200 miles) north of Baghdad. The region normally has a population of 900,000.

Civilians fled with the rebels, who abandoned the city without a fight. The authorities said they could not calculate how many had fled, but estimated that between 40,000 and 50,000 families had since returned.

An AFP correspondent who visited Irbil on April 2 saw a dead city and only soldiers on patrol in the streets. But on a visit Saturday, life appeared to be returning to normal.

The army is slowly pulling out as municipal employees clear wrecked offices and debris from the streets.

The few shops open were crowded. A crowd jostled for position outside a store where eggs had just been delivered, as women and soldiers emerged carefully carrying their precious purchases high in the air. [passage omitted]

On the road north to the Turkish border, 140 kilometres (85 miles) away, foreign journalists on an information ministry tour saw hundreds of weary civilians heading back to town in trucks, buses, taxis and tractors. Many of them said they had waited for the government's amnesty, officially on offer until April 19, to return home.

UN Envoy Visits To Discuss Relief to North

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN1404124991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1139 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn today received Eric Suy, the UN secretary general's personal envoy. They reviewed the role of the United Nations in providing assistance and relief material for civilians in the northern areas in cooperation and coordination with the Iraqi authorities.

Before the adoption of the Security Council resolution, Iraq had asked the secretary general to send a team to assess the situation in the region and the efforts being made by Iraqi authorities to restore security, provide services, and reinforce the autonomy law in the northern area. Iraq also asked the secretary general to urge humanitarian and international organizations to provide aid and relief material to the areas targeted by the acts of aggression and sabotage.

Prime Minister 'Satisfied'

JN1404142691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi today received Mr. Eric Suy, representative of the UN secretary general.

The two discussed the UN fact-finding mission on the situation of the Iraqi Kurds on the border with Turkey and Iran.

In a statement to INA, the prime minister said he was satisfied with his meeting with the UN official. The prime minister said he wanted all Iraqi Kurds to return to the country.

Hammadi Views Cooperation

JN1404145891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today received the UN fact-finding team concerned with Iraqi Kurdish citizens on the Turkish and Iranian borders. Eric Suy, representative of the UN secretary general, heads the mission.

The minister explained to the team the nature of the hostile propaganda campaign the United States and its allies have waged against Iraq to exploit the situation of the Iraqi Kurds, who the rebels moved to areas on the Turkish and Iranian borders by force of arms, terrorism, and deceptive propaganda.

The minister reaffirmed the Iraqi authorities' readiness to cooperate with any humanitarian effort the United Nations or other humanitarian bodies undertake to help

these citizens return to their villages and cities and to remove all obstacles hindering their return.

The UN secretary general's representative explained the nature of UN team's mission and said the United Nations wishes to cooperate with the Iraqi authorities to provide assistance to the Iraqi Kurds in these areas.

Foreign Ministry and Culture and Information Ministry officials attended the meeting.

Kurdish Officials Cited on Reconstruction

Support for Saddam Stressed

NC1204183391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Irbil, 12 Apr (INA)—Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barazanji, chairman of the executive council of the autonomous region, has reiterated that the Kurdish people stand behind the banner of God is Great raised by President struggler Saddam Husayn to hit the dens of treachery and agentry which attempted to undermine the national unity of our proud Iraq.

In a statement to INA, he said that the simultaneous acts of sabotage carried out in northern and southern Iraq by the agents of imperialism and Zionism and their allies exposes the imperialist circles' endeavor to strike at Iraq's progress and its people's unity with all means.

He added that the crimes of these corrupt and criminal gangs which destroyed the houses of God and the citizens, sites of learning, and the state's departments are a crime against the people and the homeland.

The chairman of the executive council stressed that the traitors and agents who committed these crimes hoped to deal a blow to all the national and ethnic rights our Kurdish people enjoy in the Iraq of civilization and history.

Legislative Council Head on New Session

NC1204184091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Irbil, 12 Apr (INA)—The spring session of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan autonomous region will begin tomorrow.

In a statement to INA, Council Chairman Baha'-al-Din Ahmad said that the council will discuss a number of issues, including rebuilding what the saboteurs destroyed in the autonomous region and the restoration of services to the people in the region.

He added that the acts of sabotage by the criminal hooligan gangs were another chapter in the American-Zionist-Atlantist conspiracy aimed at destroying the Iraqi people's unity and their scientific, cultural, and technological progress.

The council chairman explained that the criminal and agent gangs, who came from across the border, carried out the enemies' schemes to destroy Iraq's experiment and its leader President Saddam Husayn. On behalf of the Kurdish people, he renewed the pledge to President Saddam Husayn to stand in one rank to strike at anyone who is considering undermining the unity, security, and stability of the Iraqi people.

Council Discusses Services, Needs

NC1304143091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The Executive Council of the Kurdistan autonomous region held a meeting chaired by Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barazanji. The council's secretaries were present. The council discussed ways to provide the best essential services to the citizens in the autonomous region. The council also discussed ways to meet the needs of all the citizens returning to the homeland.

Officials on Kurdish Returnees

NC1304190091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1836 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Irbil, 13 Apr (INA)—The chairmen of the Legislative and Executive Councils of the Kurdistan autonomous region have declared that 40,000 to 50,000 Kurdish families have returned to the homeland since the Revolution Command Council issued the amnesty decision.

During a news conference attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, television networks, and the press as well as by the INA and local press correspondents, the councils' chairmen said that the committees receiving the returnees are providing various services to the returning families.

Legislative Council Chairman Baha'-al-din Ahmad described the destruction and sabotage of the state's establishments and the citizens' houses in the region as barbaric, criminal, and shocking. [passage omitted]

On 'Crimes' Against Iraq

NC1304184891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Irbil, 13 Apr (INA)—The chairmen of the Legislative and Executive Councils of the Kurdistan autonomous region and a number of Legislative Council members have condemned the crimes committed against Iraq by the agent and treasonous gangs. In statements to the INA correspondent, they affirmed that such sabotage embodies the deep-rooted hatred against our rising Iraq and its progress in all areas.

Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, chairman of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan autonomous region, said that the ugly, evil, and aggressive actions devastated the

state's establishments that provide services to the citizens. He added that the criminals had savagely looted the houses of the innocent defenseless citizens.

He went on to say that after the elimination of the seditious elements and the return of normal life to our cherished north, during its 1991 spring session the Legislative Council will continue diligently and with strong faith to preserve Iraq's dignity and sovereignty and to reconstruct what the agent traitors destroyed.

Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barazanji, chairman of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan autonomous region, said that after the treasonous and treacherous gangs are crushed and after our beloved land is completely purged of the desecration by agents and descendants of treason, the council will hold a series of meetings in a bid to provide the best services to the citizens and draw up successful plans to reconstruct the areas devastated by the criminal agents. In his statement, al-Barazanji said that committees have been formed to receive the returning Kurdish families and to provide them with the best services.

Executive Council member Hikmat Haji Salim said that the crimes committed by the gangs of treason are a link in the chain of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against our great Iraq. He pointed out that these acts aim at wiping out the civilized image of our steadfast Iraq. He noted that the gangs destroyed the services and cultural facilities and the state's establishments and burned more than 100,000 scientific and cultural books.

Legislative Council member Tayyib al-Shaykh Muhammad al-Barazanji said that the bravery of the Iraqi people had aborted all the plots hatched against our country, which will remain lofty like the mountains of Kurdistan and will be supported by its national unity, the strong rock on which all the vicious, treasonous plots of the forces of evil and aggression will founder.

Legislative Council member Jalal As'ar Shitah stressed that the various victories and successes scored by our noble people did not please the imperialist and Zionist forces and made them conspire against our people and their national unity.

UN Chief on Iraqi Moves Toward Kurds

AU1204124091 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Brussels, April 12 (AFP)—The Iraqi government seems to have set aside protected areas for Kurdish refugees, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in an interview broadcast on Friday. "There is a dire emergency. Of course the Iraqi Government is aware of it. The proof is that that they have apparently reserved certain zones so that these people can be protected, so to speak, and I hope that they will do this under the supervision of the United Nations," Mr. de Cuellar, speaking in French, told Belgian radio and television.

He did not provide further details regarding the zones.

Asked if the U.N. should intervene more directly in Iraq, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said "I believe that a solution must be reached which will permit increased intervention in the internal affairs of countries in cases involving respect for human rights."

He also said that the Iraqi government had welcomed the choice of Belgian diplomat Eric Suy as the "personal representative" of the secretary general in Iraq. Mr. Suy was to arrive in Iraq on Friday to study the refugee problem. [passage omitted]

Red Cross Delegation, Al-Basrah Governor Confer

JN1404130391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] al-Basrah, 14 Apr (INA)—Mr. Latif Hammud, governor of valiant al-Basrah, met with a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] currently visiting the governorate on a humanitarian mission to provide medical and pharmaceutical aid and to install water treatment equipment.

The governor explained in detail the effects of the U.S.-Atlantic aggression and the demagogic acts on the city of cities, and informed the delegation of the looting and sabotage suffered by the city's official, educational, health, scientific, and private property, especially hospitals, pharmacies, banks, fuel and electricity generators, telephones, hotels, and tourist and cultural centers.

He said electricity has been restored to most neighborhoods and rapid efforts are being made to restore it to the other areas. Pure water networks were also repaired and are now working at full capacity. Telephone services were also restored to state departments.

The ICRC delegation visited the educational hospital, several health institutions, and the governorate's drinking water complexes. It became acquainted with their needs for equipment and facilities.

Ahmad Husayn Decries Genscher's 13 Apr Remarks

JN1404215391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2130 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has strongly denounced the impudent statements made by German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher on 13 April 1991.

In a statement to INA, he said the ones who should stand trial are the criminals of the aggressive war that Iraq was exposed to, which was aimed at destroying Iraq, annihilating its people, and destroying the symbols of civilization, construction, and progress it has achieved during the last two decades of its triumphant march.

The minister added that the aggression and unjust eight-month blockade which deprived the Iraqi people of food and medicine were the most serious violations of human

rights to a normal life, development, and prosperity. He added: In fact, the embargo and blockade constitute genocide. This is in addition to the fact that the barbaric attacks and the hidden rancor against hospitals, health centers, children's milk factories, the al-'Amiriyah shelter, and other civilian facilities constitute a disgrace to all those who falsely brag about human rights, in addition to the fact that it is a violation even of what was included in the unjust UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution No. 678.

On the suspect motives behind the German minister's infantile statements, Minister Ahmad Husayn said that, having been denied the chance to join the criminal aggression against the people of Iraq and a share in the spoils of the war, Genscher now comes to stain his hands with evil and baseness and to appease his masters, who led him and his ilk and forced them to pay a financial tribute for their failure to dispatch forces to launch aggression against Iraq, instead contributing equipment and various weapons.

We all remember how the hypocritical Genscher hastened to Tel Aviv to shed tears for the Zionists and donate ill-gotten cash to the killers of the defenseless Palestinian people, choosing to forget the victims of the fascist Zionist repression— Palestinian women, children, and the elderly, who are striving to liberate their usurped homeland.

The foreign minister concluded his statement by declaring that, while we vigorously condemn and denounce Minister Genscher's obscene remarks, we are confident that the friendly German people, who have come out against the imperialist-Zionist war, are absolutely opposed to the compromise of their ties with the Arab nation. We also are certain the German people are equally opposed to their interests and reputation being harmed to advance the cause of the feverish political and informational drive against Iraq, planned and run by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and world Zionism.

'Aziz Returns From Tour of Jordan, Yemen, Sudan

JN1404172191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's envoy Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, returned to Baghdad today following a tour that took him to Jordan, Yemen, and the Sudan.

His excellency the president's envoy handed letters concerning bilateral ties and Arab developments to his brothers His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan; Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of Yemen's Presidential Council; and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's National Salvation Revolution Command Council.

Memos Sent to UN on U.S., Saudi Overflights

10-12 Apr Activity

NC1204205691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 12 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations today sent a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar concerning U.S. and Saudi air activity over Iraqi territory between 10 and 12 April.

The memorandum says that a total of 120 air sorties were carried out by 60 formations. It noted that the sorties by U.S. and Saudi aircraft were carried out mainly over Baghdad, south of Baghdad, the Tammuz air base, and south of al-Suwayrah and al-Diwaniyah. The purpose of the flights was reconnaissance, observation, and harassment.

The Iraqi memorandum explained that the aircraft were F-14's and F-15's. They flew at altitudes ranging between 5.5 and 8 kilometers (km) and at a speed of 720 km per hour.

The INA correspondent in New York reports that the Iraqi envoy asked that the memorandum be circulated as an official document of the UN Security Council.

More on 11-12 Apr Flights

NC1304190591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] United Nations, 13 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations has sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general concerning U.S. flights in Iraqi airspace, requesting that the memorandum be circulated as a Security Council document.

The INA correspondent in New York reports that Iraq's permanent delegate noted that the U.S-Saudi air activity on 11 and 12 April 1991 involved a total of 128 sorties in 63 formations at an altitude ranging between 4 to 8 km and an average speed of 750 km per hour.

He added that the aircraft involved were F-16's, F-15's, and F-14's and that they flew mainly over the areas of Baghdad, al-Ramadi, al-Kut, al-Diwaniyah, Mosul for reconnaissance and to create disturbances.

12-13 Apr Activity

JN1404190891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 14 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent UN representative today sent a memo to the UN secretary general on the air activity of U.S. and Saudi aircraft over Iraqi territory. He asked that the memo be distributed as a Security Council document.

The memo says:

1. U.S.-Saudi air activity for 12 and 13 April 1991 totaled 119 air sorties, 59 of which were formations, in addition to one individual sortie, at an altitude of 4 to 7 km and a speed of 720 km.

2. The aircraft were identified as F-15's, F-14's, and F [not further identified]. Their activity was centered over Baghdad, al-Kut, al-Suwayrah, Ba'qubah, on missions of observation and reconnaissance.

Number, Type of Planes in Iran Reported

NC1204181791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—Commenting on the statement by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati the day before yesterday concerning the number of Iraqi military and civilian planes moved to Iran, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn made the following statement to INA:

The number of military planes and Iraqi Airways planes that were moved to Iran during the American-Atlantic aggression is as follows:

Military Aircraft	
Aircraft type	Number
Mirage F-1	24
Sukhoi-24	24
Sukhoi-22	40
Sukhoi-20	4
Sukhoi-25	7
Mig-23 BN	4
Mig-29	4
Mig-23 ML	7
Mig-23 Dual [muzdawijah]	1
Total	115 military aircraft
Civilian Aircraft	
Aircraft type	Number
Boeing Jumbo 747	2
Boeing 707	1
Boeing 737	2
Airbus 310A	5
Airbus 300	1
Ilyushin 76	15
Falcon 20	2
Falcon 50	3
Jetstar	1
Boeing 727	1
Total	33 civilian aircraft

Iran Accused of Cease-Fire Violation, Kidnapping

JN1404083091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 14 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent UN representative has sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general on the Iranian Government's insistence on violating the cease-fire between the two countries.

The INA correspondent in New York said 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari asked that the memorandum be circulated as a Security Council document. The following is the text of the memorandum:

Your Excellency: Upon instructions from my government and subsequent to our letters, the latest of which was dated 10 April 1991, I would like to point out that at 1400 on Tuesday, 9 April 1991, a force infiltrated Iraq's Badrah area in the central sector from Iranian territory and kidnapped nine Iraqi soldiers. It also fired on another soldier, who was instantly martyred. The force then returned to Iran.

This violation reaffirms the Iranian Government's insistence on violating the cease-fire between the two countries and its premeditated effort to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and security. My government reaffirms the Iranian Government's responsibility for all the damage caused by these violations and demands that it return all the kidnapped soldiers.

You are kindly requested to circulate this letter as a Security Council document. Please accept my respects.

[Signed] The permanent representative

Envoy to UN Says Gulf War 'Not Over Yet'

NC1304150691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Washington, 13 Apr (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's representative to the United Nations, has expressed the conviction that the war in the Gulf is not over yet because Resolution 687 includes provisions for a permanent cease-fire but not for an end to the state of war.

He said this is evident in the continued sanctions against Iraq for the ninth successive month in a form similar to an all-out blockade. This can be classified under the description of state of war as defined by international law and the UN Charter, Dr. al- Anbari added.

Dr. al-Anbari added that part of the tragic suffering of the Iraqis, whether in the south or in the north, is because of the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq; the allied states' bombardment of the infrastructure that provides water and electricity to the Iraqi people; and the lack of food and medicine and other essential services.

In his statement, Dr. al-Anbari said: The people are now in an extremely difficult situation. There is [word indistinct] because the allied states are preventing Iraq from importing energy resources, foodstuff, medicines, and others things, while at the same time airlifting large amounts of aid to the people who have been forced to suffer because of the economic sanctions.

Security Council President's Cease-Fire Message

NC1204190291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 12 Apr (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations, has conferred with the president of the UN Security Council at the latter's request. The meeting followed the Council's session of informal deliberations yesterday afternoon in which it endorsed the text of a message addressed by the Security Council in reply to the foreign minister's letter accepting Resolution 687.

The message states that Iraq has satisfied the requirements listed under Clause 33 of Resolution 687 concerning the formal declaration of the cease-fire. The following is the text of the UN Security Council president's message to Iraq's permanent UN delegate:

Your Excellency 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations:

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you of the receipt of your letter dated 6 April 1991 in which you conveyed the letter addressed to me by the Iraqi foreign minister. The penultimate paragraph of that letter contained an official announcement acknowledging Iraq's final and unconditional acceptance of Resolution 687/1991, in accordance with Clause 33 of this resolution.

During our meeting on 8 April 1991, you confirmed to me, on behalf of your government, that this letter constitutes Iraq's final and unconditional acceptance of Resolution 687/1991, pursuant to Clause 33 of the resolution. You also conveyed to me the Iraqi National Assembly's acceptance on 6 April 1991 of the resolution. You emphasized to me, in the name of your government, that the Revolution Command Council has used its constitutional powers to make this resolution legally binding on the Republic of Iraq.

Accordingly, the Security Council members have asked me to note that the conditions set forth under Clause 33 of Resolution 687/1991 have thus been satisfied and that, thereupon, the official cease- fire referred to in Clause 33 of this resolution is in force.

The Security Council members welcome these developments as a positive step toward the full implementation of Resolution 687/1991.

Please accept my deepest respects.

[Signed] Paul Noterdaeme

Committee on 'U.S. War Crimes' Views Findings

NC1304112491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—The international committee investigating U.S. war crimes against Iraq and the region's people is currently visiting Iraq. The committee has affirmed that the goals of the American-Atlantic aggression against Iraq were not what the U.S. Administration claimed in its justification for launching the war. In fact, the pretext was sought to achieve the U.S. Administration's goals of destroying Iraq and imposing its hegemony on the region.

Adib 'Abd, a member of the committee and head of the delegation, said that since arriving in Iraq the delegation has visited numerous locations and installations destroyed by the American-Atlantic aggression. He said that the delegation is now completely convinced that the aggression against Iraq targeted the destruction of the infrastructure of the Iraqi people's human life, including power and water purification plants, hospitals, food stores, residential homes and areas, and civilian shelters.

In a statement to INA, 'Abd said that these actions are among the war crimes outlawed in the Geneva Conventions and other international agreements.

He indicated that the delegation has also seen the destruction inflicted by the saboteurs on Iraqi cities and governorates in the south. He said that, too, was part of the aggression against Iraq.

He noted that the international committee to investigate the U.S. war crimes against Iraq and the region's peoples, which stemmed from the Coalition Opposed to American Intervention in the Middle East, has seen the suffering created by the American-Atlantic aggression against the Iraqi people. This is especially apparent in the suffering of the children and the sick as a result of the use of water unfit for human consumption and the lack of medical supplies and medicines because of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

The head of the delegation called on humanitarian organizations worldwide to increase their efforts to have the unjust economic blockade lifted and to help the Iraqi people rebuild what has been destroyed by the American-Atlantic aggression.

Adib 'Abd then reviewed the committee's activities and said that the committee, after completing the documentation of the American war crimes, will publish its findings inside and outside the United States, including in the European capitals that participated in the aggression against Iraq.

He added that the committee will also hold a series of seminars and meetings in various countries worldwide to present these documents and the evidence that incriminates the U.S. Administration and exposes the goals of

its policy in the region. It will also speak out about the crimes the U.S. Administration has committed in the region and against Iraq in order to achieve those goals.

He said that the documents and evidence will also be presented to a group of prominent legal figures in the world in order to form a tribunal to judge the war crimes and to issue a verdict condemning the U.S. Administration and its allies.

The delegation of the International Committee To Investigate the American War Crimes comprises (Gabriel Jammah) and (Alice Jabis) of the Coalition Opposed to American Intervention in the Middle East. That organization, headed by former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark, was formed on 8 August 1990.

The coalition comprises 220 U.S. humanitarian and popular organizations and foundations.

The coalition has organized a number of activities and demonstrations against the American intervention in the region, the most notable of which were the tumultuous demonstrations staged in many U.S. cities on 20 October 1990 in which over 20,000 [as received] people protested the U.S. policy and its intervention in the region. Other boisterous demonstrations, in which over 150,000 and 220,000 people participated, were staged in Washington and California, respectively.

Assembly Doubts 'Justice' of Resolution 687

JN1404175991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—The National Assembly asked Arab and international parliamentary unions today to distribute officially to the parliamentary members of these unions the Assembly's opinion on Security Council Resolution 687. This resolution contains the official conditions of the cease-fire between Iraq and the countries in the alliance against it.

The National Assembly expressed its opinion on Resolution 687 in its first session on 6 April when it announced its acceptance of this resolution so as to protect the Iraqi people and spare them the effects of the dangerous conspiracy. This was despite the fact that the Assembly had no conviction of the justice of the resolution issued by the Security Council, which has become an obedient tool in the hands of the United States and its aides to execute all its policies.

The National Assembly also believes that the resolution is an extension of the Security Council resolutions that imposed an economic siege on Iraq, blocked food and medicine, and authorized the military aggression. This was a U.S.-British decision to achieve the interests of imperialist countries and the Zionist entity in the Arab region, to take control and possess the oil production centers, and to violate regional security and parity at the expense of legitimate Arab rights.

The National Assembly said that the conditions contained in the resolution dictate that Iraq destroy all its chemical and biological weapons, and ballistic missiles with a range greater than 1505 km. The objective of these conditions is to weaken Iraq's military capabilities in performing its pan-Arab role and confronting the destructive force of the Zionist entity. This is a clear and blatant violation of the resolutions issued by the international parliamentary conference on disarmament held in May 1990 in Bonn. The resolution will create a state of imbalance in the region enabling Israel to implement its expansionist and aggressive policies at the expense of the Arab people, in addition to implementing U.S. schemes for the area in conjunction with Zionism against Iraq.

Clandestine Radio Urges Army Uprising

LD1204172591 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] O sons of our Army, O officers and men, O sons of Iraq who are oppressed by Saddam's regime, you cannot let time pass without punishing and overthrowing Saddam's regime. We cannot keep silent about the catastrophe which has befallen Iraq, and we cannot surrender to the injustices that have befallen our people and soldiers and let the despot escape punishment.

The defeat inflicted on our Army is the result of Saddam's [words indistinct]. Our country will not recover from the ordeal without the fall of the defeated despot. Our Army will not regain its honor without a revolution that would overthrow Saddam's regime and rescue the people from his shame and corruption.

The people are rising to get rid of the despot Saddam's regime. They are turning to you, O sons of our Army, they are turning to you to support them by joining the people's revolution. The people, with the Army and the Armed Forces, will achieve decisive victory over the despot. The people, without the Army and the Armed Forces, will remain in need of a strong support and a protective shield. You are their strong support, O sons of the Army; and you are their protective shield, O our honorable officers and soldiers.

The tragedy has reached such an extent that we cannot keep quiet. The tragedy urges you all to rescue Iraq from a regime that has caused this tragedy, and [word indistinct] of Iraq can only be achieved by honorable Iraqis, and can only be achieved with the unity of the people and the Army. O sons of our Army, join the uprising of your people, and bolster their ability to triumph over the defeated despot's regime.

'Non-Iraqi Force' Said Formed To Defend Regime

NC1404171791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The despot's troops have abducted children in al-Basrah to intimidate the uprising fighters, who managed to destroy four tanks and kill a number of Saddamist guards in the south.

In another development, a non-Iraqi force was formed recently to defend the despot's regime against any coup attempt after thousands of his armed forces had joined the uprising. The new force is made up of Sudanese, Palestinians, Jordanians, and fighters from the Iranian opposition movement Mojahedin-e Khalq. The force is under the command of Saddamist officers.

Rebels Cable Thanks to Khamene'i, Rafsanjani

NC1404155091 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The popular uprising's revolutionary committees have sent a cable of thanks to His Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic; and His Eminence Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic.

The cable begins: On behalf of our Iraqi people, on behalf of hundreds of thousands who are suffering the pains of loneliness, siege, and destruction, and on behalf of all our revolutionary heroes who are determined to continue their struggle and jihad until the Saddamist gang is toppled, we extend our thanks and appreciation for your great succor and the assistance you gave to hundreds of thousands of our people.

Addressing their eminences Ayatollah Khamene'i and Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the revolutionary committees' cable adds: We have no means to express our gratitude except to extend to you through the Voice of Rebellious Iraq radio our greatest thanks and appreciation.

We wish to note that Iran opened its border to hundreds of thousands of our people and offered them necessary services and food.

In a related development, we have received a report from Iran that His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i donated the large sum of $5 million to those fleeing Saddam's terrorism. In addition, donations are flowing to our people from various Iranian cities and villages.

Palestinian Liberation Army Unit Said in Karkuk

LD1404093991 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Persons close to the tyrant said that a unit from the Palestinian Liberation Army arrived in Karkuk and that it was positioned in (al-Dibs) region to protect electricity generators of the northern region, following the defection of the Iraqi contingent in charge of this mission to the people's uprising.

Tehran Cites Opposition Radio on Renewed Fighting

LD1004114391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] According to reports from southern Iraqi cities, opposition forces have attacked the Ba'thist forces in the al-Tannumah region, near al-Basrah, capturing large quantities of arms and equipment, including a number of missiles. According to the Central News Unit, the Voice of Rebellious Iraq has announced: In an attack by the Iraqi opposition on a government center in al-Basrah, large quantities of arms and ammunition were seized and six senior Ba'this officers, including a brigadier general, were captured.

Uprising Fighters Capture Iraqi Colonel

NC1304205091 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1940 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] As part of the strategy to attack the pillars and foundations of the regime, we have received an urgent report from al-Basrah that our valiant fighters have captured Staff Colonel 'Abbas Mhamid, commander of the 56th Armored Brigade, who was serving at the 3d Corps General Staff. Staff Col. 'Abbas Mhamid was accompanied by Razzaq Hassun and 'Abbas Mahdi from Baghdad.

Staff Col. 'Abbas Mhamid has appealed to the officers and soldiers to join the uprising. During a brief interview with our correspondent while the colonel was being evacuated, because of his wounds, to a secure health center for our fighters, the staff colonel added that the uprising's demands are the same as the Army's demands. The Army is eager to join the people.

Addressing Saddam, the commander of the 56th Armored Brigade said: You must let the people live in freedom. They have suffered enough starvation and fear because of your stupidity.

'Voice of Free Iraq' Changes Name

LD1304091191 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Station identification]

[Text] This is the Radio of the Republic of Iraq from Baghdad, Voice of the Iraqi Opposition [Hadhihi Idha'at al-Jumhuriyah al-'Iraqiyyah min Baghdad, Sawt al-Mu'arazah al-'Iraqiyyah]. Out of desire for increased cohesion of our masses who are opposed to the defeated regime, and to affirm the opposition of all Iraqis to the rule of the despot Saddam Husayn and his clique, it has been decided to change the name of this radio to Voice of the Iraqi Opposition, beginning today, Friday [words indistinct].

Writer Urges 'Constructive Turnaround' in Media

JN1304080591 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Apr 91 p 3

["Media Outlook" column by Zaynah al-Rafi'i: "Why Do Some People Listen to World Radios?"]

[Text] In the absence of an opposition media, the Western media have continued the process of disinformation and deception to create confusion and spread concern, tension, and frustration among Iraqis. Regrettably, Western media were able to achieve this under the circumstances that followed the chapters of the U.S. aggression against Iraq, and because the mass media lost their credibility and standing in reflecting the reality of what is happening on the ground.

While the citizens were eager to listen to any news about the events, the media ignored some important developments that took place in Iraq and imposed a blackout on that news. Meanwhile, the Western media was fabricating, analyzing, and inventing news on the basis of some reports by correspondents in countries neighboring Iraq. This blackout created a sense of instability and fear that made citizens believe the stories of the Western media, which are known for their loyalty to the Zionist lobby and Western intelligence services.

Through this blackout, those in charge of information wanted to achieve some gain or to catch their breath, faced by this mammoth flow of developments and huge quantity of propagandist reports being inflated by the Western media, especially by the video branch. What happened was contrary to all expectations, however, because the blackout increased the escape toward the Western radios, and consequently decreased the Iraqi media's opportunities for maneuvering to regain its listeners and readers.

In the face of this reality, we cannot ignore the state of psychological confusion inflicted by the Western media on the citizen. The negative results of this confusion reflected on the citizen's feelings, behavior, and positions. We should deal with this state as an inevitable, planned result of psychological warfare aimed at creating confusion and internal instability.

If we go back to the origins of the sedition that was meant to divide up and undermine Iraq, we will find that, in addition to there being direct intervention by some neighboring countries, the sedition indicated an obvious lack of intelligence about what was really happening on the domestic front in Iraq. The lies propagated by foreign media helped fuel the fear and apprehension of the citizenry, transporting them from a state of self-confidence into a state of frustration. This drove some to miserably join the saboteurs in the hope of acquiring false gains.

Faced with such a difficult situation, it is necessary to devote all media resources to restoring what the masses lost in the previous stage. This is because the conspiracy is continuing, and the objective of dividing Iraq up has not been forgotten, although the cities that were the scene of the sedition have been purged. Military force alone, however, is not enough, because it needs a strong media tributary that consolidates self-confidence and removes the misery and apprehension drummed by the aggression forces into the hearts of the citizens, as well as the aftereffects of the psychological war that attempted to distort facts in the minds of the gullible. Thus, the media are responsible for remedying any misconceptions through the sincere, free word, which the Iraqis need for the course of psychological, social, and economic construction. This can only be achieved through a constructive turnaround in all the media concepts that are in place, not because these are not useful, but because they are not in step with the dangerous stage Iraq is passing through. Let us put the finger on the painful wound and learn from our past mistakes with an open mind for correct, constructive criticism. This will not succeed through patching things up, but through dedicating resources to the appropriate place, away from any favoritism. This is because, before hitting us with their missiles, the aggression forces hit us—and are still hitting us—with their poisonous, incendiary words and pens. Let our major objective be the interest of Iraq, and never mind small details that are bound to perish.

Shamir Offers Palestinians Self-Rule, Ministries

TA1404085091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Apr 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Tzvi Timor and Dorit Gefen]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is offering Palestinians a self-rule which would include ministries—"parallel to government ministries"—of education, finance, commerce, justice, and health; in fact, "all the fields," the prime minister states in an exclusive interview with 'AL HAMISHMAR.

Shamir concedes that what is involved is a little more than the autonomy proposed in the Camp David accords, and a little less than sovereignty; he describes it as a semantic change. Although the Palestinians do not like the word autonomy, what is involved is a full autonomy where the inhabitants would run all their own affairs, except for security and foreign affairs, "and perhaps a few more affairs yet to be agreed upon."

Shamir agrees to have the Palestinians set up a police force, but "we would remain in charge of the security service," he notes. The prime minister haltingly agrees to have them conduct a democratic political life, which would include parties and press. "We will have to agree on this with them. The moment you speak about a political life, security matters are immediately affected. If security matters are not affected, this would be nobody's business," Shamir says. The prime minister stresses that he has a full-fledged written plan. The full text of the interview with be published in 'AL HAMISHMAR's Independence Day edition on 18 April.

Agrees to Abu-'Ayyash Participation

TA1404085091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Apr 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources involved in the political process noted yesterday that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had withdrawn his opposition to the inclusion of Radwan Abu-'Ayyash in the Palestinian delegation. The report has been confirmed by Palestinian sources in the territories close to Abu-'Ayyash.

Our correspondent points out that the PLO has been informed about and approved the candidacy of Abu-'Ayyash, "the owner of the office in East Jerusalem" that triggered the fall of the unity government. Nevertheless, Baker told Shamir during his visit to Israel that in the future he would also continue to confer with Faysal al-Husayni and his men. [passage omitted]

Aide Elaborates on Plan

TA1404180591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in English 1700 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's office, by Miriam Herschlag, on 14 April in Ben-Aharon's office in Jerusalem—recorded]

[Text] [Herschlag] Prime Minister Shamir is reported today to have put forward an idea, some sort of an idea, for Palestinian self-rule, minus an army. Does this represent a new Israeli proposal on the table?

[Ben-Aharon] No, it is based on the Camp David proposal for autonomy. You know that the expression self-governing or self-government authority appears in the Camp David accords.

[Herschlag] Is Israel's program for 13,000 new housing units in the territories going ahead with the full awareness and approval of the prime minister?

[Ben-Aharon] What needs to be approved by the cabinet level is only the establishment of new settlements. This is the policy.

[Herschlag] If I may follow up, sir, do you see the issue of settlements in the territories as a possible obstacle to peace?

[Ben-Aharon] Our best judgment is that it need not be and it is not an obstacle, and on the basis of what took place in the course of the Camp David talks and the peace treaty with Egypt, it did not prove to be an obstacle.

Proposals Reported on Arabic Radio

NC1404075891 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levi, and Defense Minister Moshe Arens will brief the cabinet during its weekly meeting today on the results of the talks they held with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Jerusalem last week.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has proposed the establishment of an autonomous administration for the Palestinians in the territories. This administration will incorporate departments similar to the government ministries that will be responsible for various affairs, such as education, trade, finance, justice, and health.

The prime minister's proposal came in the course of an interview with 'AL HAMISHMAR on the occasion of Independence Day. The entire interview will be published on Wednesday. The paper published excerpts from the interview today.

Shamir said that, according to the proposed autonomous administration in the territories, the inhabitants will be

able to manage all their own affairs except for security, foreign policy, and probably other matters to be agreed upon.

The prime minister said that according to this proposal the inhabitants of the territories will be able to establish their own police force, but the other security organs will remain under Israeli control. He said that political life in the territories, including the establishment of parties, will be subject to discussion between Israel and the inhabitants of the territories because it is linked to security matters.

The prime minister emphasized that he has a written comprehensive plan on this subject.

Meanwhile, 'AL HAMISHMAR today cites diplomatic sources linked with the political process as having said that the prime minister has retracted his opposition to the participation of Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Arab Journalists Syndicate in the territories, in the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel. The paper adds that sources close to Abu-'Ayyash confirmed this report.

It is recalled that Radwan Abu-'Ayyash was released two days ago after five months of administrative detention.

Palestinians React 'Coolly'

TA1404112391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Palestinian public figures in the territories respond coolly to Yitzhaq Shamir's proposals for more than autonomy for the Palestinians in the territories. Udi Segal, our correspondent in the territories, reports:

Shamir's proposals do not contain anything significantly new, Palestinian figures in the territories said today in response to a proposal by the prime minister to set up ministries in the territories parallel to the government ministries. It was difficult to receive any response by the Palestinian leadership because most have not yet studied the proposal published this morning, and those with whom I spoke made it clear that it must be studied closely because not all the details are clear.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who participated in the two most recent meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, said that he is still not acquainted with all the details of the plan, but that if the massive building drive in the settlements continues then the proposal does not do anything to advance the Palestinians' aims. To hand over to us the running of the schools and hospitals does not answer our demands and is not sufficient to further the peace process, Frayj said.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash of Ramallah said that he has still not read the details of the proposals, but that any positive thinking initiated by Shamir would help both sides to settle the conflict.

The main message they voiced is that in the meantime we should wait and see what is behind the proposal and then react accordingly.

Shamir Departs for London; On 'Autonomy-Plus'

TA1404173891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] This evening Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir left for London. Prior to his departure he held a brief news conference in which he said that during the meeting in London with his USSR counterpart Pavlov, he will explain Israel's position, which sees the USSR's participation in regional conference conditional on the reestablishment of the political relations between the two countries. Shamir left for London for the inauguration ceremony of the European Bank, the aim of which is the development of Europe. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz was at the airport:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Yitzhaq Shamir is leaving for the opening of his and our bank. It is apparent that Israel is one of the stockholders of the central bank for East Europe. The political meetings, however, are more important, and the USSR prime minister will also be there.

[Shamir] The issue of full normalization of diplomatic relations is very important. As is well known, we have conditioned the participation of the USSR in providing the auspices for the regional meeting between Israel and the Arab world upon the full normalization of the diplomatic relations between us. We will certainly discuss this issue. We will have to explain our attitude on this whole issue to him.

[Raz] There are also the issues of immigration and direct flights from there to here. As for the political topic, or the new term, autonomy-plus, Yitzhaq Shamir explains:

[Begin Shamir recording] For some reason the Arabs do not like the term autonomy—although, during the negotiations on the Camp David agreements, we said: full autonomy [last two words in English and repeated in Hebrew]. Furthermore, at the time, our men in charge of this prepared a detailed list of all the powers the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be given after the agreement is signed. That list was very impressive. It included powers to be given in all walks of life, with the exception of several issues that make the difference between the regime they will be given and an independent state. [end recording]

[Raz] This is autonomy-plus. Shamir believes more meetings with Secretary Baker will be held. Then we will learn about the reactions of the Arab world to the updated Israeli offers.

[Jerusalem Israel Television in Arabic carries a recorded passage in Hebrew from the news conference in which Shamir answers correspondent Moshe Bakhar's questions. Concerning the results of Secretary Baker's visit to

the Middle East, Shamir says: "We still do not have a full report on Baker's meetings. As is common in such matters, no one hurries to report everything and provide full evaluations. There are positive things, there are less positive things. Some things are agreed upon, some are not. I believe we will have the opportunity and possibility to meet with Mr. Baker and his aides. Then we will hear the responses from the Arab side."

[Commenting on the frequency and meaning of Baker's visits, Shamir adds: "There is no doubt that the intensification of his visits and contacts with the various elements in the Middle East proves that things are in the works, that we have things to discuss. Sometimes we have the impression that he feels the opportunity and the need not to let go of the momentum and reach positive results."]

Shamir 'Definitely Pleased' With Baker Talks

TA1304081791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0705 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan on 12 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, are you pleased with the talks you, Foreign Minister Levi, and Defense Minister Arens had with Secretary of State Baker? Are we now closer to a political breakthrough?

[Shamir] I am definitely pleased with the talks we conducted. I very much hope that the process we are trying to carry out and lead to success will indeed succeed and bear fruit, despite the fact that it is still fraught with obstacles. As you know, it is no easy feat. Obstacles may yet crop up, in addition to the ones that already exist. We know that the secretary of state is still conducting intensive negotiations. The entire process is still a new phenomenon in the international arena in general, and in the Middle East in particular. Although I believe it is a very reasonable and realistic process, we should not lavish excessive praise on what has been achieved to date. Nevertheless, I hope we are approaching a stage which will bring us closer to settling the conflict.

[Golan] You are being very cautious.

[Shamir] I must be cautious at this stage, for fear of the evil eye, too.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, Secretary of State Baker may return to the region in a few weeks. Should we expect the process to last weeks, months, perhaps years?

[Shamir] I do not think it will last that long. I would like to tell you that if the process comes to fruition and we hold the meeting we are striving to convene, what I will see as the main payoff will be the very fact that a dialogue was held. I am a big believer in dialogue between different people, bodies, and nations. Dialogue is always beneficial and important, even if agreement is not reached at once. Dialogue leads to more understanding and efforts to understand the other person, and when that is attained things sometimes become simpler and easier, although occasionally the exact opposite may happen. Therefore, I yearn and crave for the success of the activity we are currently engaged in.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, what is the Israeli Government's authoritative position regarding the Palestinian representation? Do you oppose an independent Palestinian delegation so as not to grant them the status of a state-to-be or an entity?

[Shamir] It is too early to discuss the specifics of the agreements that will be signed. What we have had so far are talks, deliberations, and probes. After all, there is another side to this coin. We must hear what the Arab side has to say.

[Golan] Have you received an initial report from Baker?

[Shamir] Not yet, it is too early. When we reach some sort of agreement between the sides, when an arrangement is formulated, when the plan is finished, we will have to submit it to the government, which will have to decide. Today, there is as yet no need or cause to put the issue to the government. That is why it is too early to ask what the government's position is.

[Golan] In other words, would you say that as far as you are concerned, everything is still open? It could be an independent Palestinian delegation, although a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation would be better?

[Shamir] I will not go into this or similar questions. Discussions are still under way. I believe we are acting within the government's principles and basic guidelines and in the spirit of the resolutions it has passed to date. Nevertheless, after the entire package is wrapped up, we will present it to the government. Decisions will be made then. I assume this will be done as soon as we know the reactions of the other sides and we are closer to the end of the process.

[Golan] Sir, Ari'el Sharon contends that vagueness prevails over the question of the Palestinian delegation, and that cabinet ministers are being taken for a ride.

[Shamir] I told you on some other occasion that I will not enter into arguments with any cabinet minister. I act according to my own judgment and conscience. Once the job is done we will present the issue to the government and the Israeli people.

[Golan] May I infer from this statement that you have no plans to convene the Likud Central Committee any time soon, as Sharon demands?

[Shamir] I do not think that is possible or necessary today. The matter has not yet been consolidated and there is as yet nothing to discuss or decide upon.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, when the package is wrapped up, as you said, do you foresee opposition on the part of Ministers Ne'eman, Ze'evi, and Eytan, perhaps even Minister Sharon, and the eventual disbandment of the government?

[Shamir] I will not make any speculations; I cannot speak for other cabinet ministers. I hope that government crises will not sabotage the plan, if it is consolidated and it matures to the point where it calls for a decision.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, according to various reports, in his talks in Cairo Baker promised President Mubarak to exert pressure on Israel on the question of the settlements. The question is: To what extent might this issue hinder the advancement of peace, the fact notwithstanding that we consider the settlements an internal issue that is actually unrelated to the process?

[Shamir] There has been and there is still a big disproportion between the coverage given by the media to the settlements issue and the attention and time devoted to the matter in our talks and discussions. I do not consider this a particularly special or important issue liable to affect the current negotiations. The question of the settlements is not relevant to the political process.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, do you agree with Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin that the Golan Heights is more important than peace?

[Shamir] It is not my duty to pass judgment on the opinions of Knesset members, however prominent they may be. When a consolidated plan is attained we will present it and explain it.

[Golan] And what about the Golan Heights?

[Shamir] Everybody knows my opinion about the Golan Heights. I do not need the opinion of others.

[Golan] Sunday night you will fly to London to attend the inauguration of the European Bank for Rehabilitation and Investment, and meet the Soviet prime minister. Should an announcement about the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union be expected soon, if a regional meeting is indeed held?

[Shamir] The resumption of diplomatic relations is not directly related to the issues we have been discussing so far only with the U.S. Administration. These will yet have to be discussed with the Soviet government, and I may raise the matter with the Soviet prime minister. I hope the resumption of Israeli-Soviet diplomatic relations will come in any event, independently of the current talks. There are some issues which have to be discussed with a high-ranking official such as the Soviet prime minister, whom I will be meeting for the first time.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, concerning the domestic political situation, will you bring about or will you seek to bring about early elections if the right-wing parties place constraints on the continuation of the process or if Israel is urged to make concessions of such a nature that you will not be able to deliver?

[Shamir] As a rule, I do not favor early elections. I think a country should hold elections once every four years. Elections are an expensive activity which we should not indulge in too frequently, if we can suffice with performing it once every four years. If the need arises, which it sometimes does, we will not be able to avoid it. At the moment I do not think about it.

[Golan] If the need arises, will you run again at the head of the Likud?

[Shamir] I have not yet thought about it. Also, this is up to the Likud.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much.

[Shamir] Thank you, and a peaceful Sabbath.

Shamir, Levi Brief Cabinet on Baker Visit

TA140411 91 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman outside the Prime Minister's Office]

[Text] The weekly cabinet meeting ended a short time ago. Two main issues were on the agenda, first the political issue and then the state comptroller's report on the gas masks. First to the political issue:

Foreign Minister David Levi, the prime minister, and defense minister presented wide-ranging reports on Secretary of State James Baker's visit last week to Jerusalem. Levi reported with great optimism about the agreements reached with the secretary of state, and said the understanding with the United States is in itself important and so far is the main achievement of Baker's visit. He spoke extensively and with great excitement about the talks, but the prime minister sounded slightly less optimistic, ministers reported after the meeting.

Minister Levi did not refer specifically to the attacks by Minister Ari'el Sharon and other right-wing ministers on the cabinet and the agreements reached with Baker. But Levi attacked what he called elements operating against the government.

[Begin Levi recording] Ministers have the right to have their say, to criticize, to oppose, to vote. All that is permissible, but when there is a policy and basic guidelines, and the cabinet—the entire cabinet—approved them, and we operate according to them, it is impossible to divide the government between those who are responsible and work for the people and the country, and those who abandon the people and the country. One cannot live with such a division. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Levi added that such a standard cannot be acceptable, but he did not respond to a question about

whether there is a need to fire cabinet ministers who openly oppose cabinet decisions.

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi said that the report he hears in the cabinet is much rosier than that presented by the media, but he expressed concern about the intention to hold discussions only after the package is sealed, as he said. We are living in a democratic coalition government and things cannot be decided as if it were a presidential regime, Ze'evi told the prime minister. He also urged making it clear to Baker that his remarks about Minister Sharon and the settlements were considered an intervention in Israel's internal affairs and cannot be tolerated.

On the gas masks controversy, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the new chief of staff, reported on the state comptroller's report. He said the entire population, from babies to senior citizens, received the most reasonable protection after taking into account the type of threat and the resources at the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] disposal. Not all the ministers, however, accepted that position. Ministers Der'i and Moda'i said harm was caused to the population if only because of the damage to its trust in the defense establishment. Minister Der'i added that he does not accept the claim about lack of resources. It is not a shame to admit mistakes.

At this point, Defense Minister Moshe Arens opened a sharp offensive on the state comptroller. The defense minister said: the state comptroller's report does not reflect reality. The intentions of the report are good, but not the results. The state comptroller is not immune to mistakes and the report on the gas masks can be called a mistake, the defense minister said. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir concluded the discussion by saying that there was no need for a cabinet decision on the issue since it was clear that the position of the defense minister and the defense establishment is that of the cabinet. There are other approaches and I do not want to deal with them, said the prime minister in summing up the subject. The entire cabinet supported the defense minister and opposed the state comptroller.

Baker Reneges on 'Regional Encounter' Language

TA1504061991 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Apr 91 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has reneged on his understanding with Israel to use the term "regional encounter" for the U.S.- and USSR-sponsored conference aimed at promoting the peace process in the Middle East and is suggesting that the event be called a "peace conference." Baker is scheduled to return to Israel on Saturday night. In a personal letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday, the U.S. secretary of state calls on Shamir to consider the inclusion of the EC as an observer at the conference. The suggestion was made in an attempt to placate Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who is demanding that the negotiations be conducted under UN aegis.

It was reported that al-Asad is ready to participate in a peace conference leading to a direct dialogue with Israel.

Yesterday, political sources in Jerusalem refused to disclose the contents of the letter, but stressed that despite the Syrian president's tough stand, he has for the first time accepted the two-track approach according to which the process will be based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. This readiness will allow the peace conference to be held as an opening framework, after which discussions in bilateral groups on the promotion of peace between Israel and Arab countries and between Israel and Palestinians from the territories will be possible.

The same sources stated that despite the cautious optimism which the secretary's letter exudes, high hurdles still obstruct the path to a solution, because the Arab countries' stands on the issue of the Palestinian representation are completely different from Israel's. [passage omitted]

Levi: Reports of Next Baker Visit 'Good Sign'

TA1504093791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0826 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The Knesset held an extraordinary recess session today on the issue of Baker's visit to Israel. Knesset Member [MK] Gad Ya'aqobi of the Alignment called for the adoption of the territories-for-peace formula in order to make way for the development of the country and the absorption of new immigrants. He assailed Minister Sharon's settlement activities and the fact that Prime Minister Shamir ignores the criticism of these activities.

MK Sara Doron of the Likud said that the Knesset is about to begin an important political debate, that the government is treading the right path, and that Israel's security should be guaranteed. Jews have the right to settle throughout the land, she added.

Shinuy's Avraham Poraz said the government is not interested in the peace process because it fears it will have to cede territory. Ze'ev Kohen reports from the Knesset:

Today's Knesset debate was very short, featuring no votes. Foreign Minister David Levi responded to the motions to the agenda, and in summing up his remarks I could say he sounded extremely optimistic about the peace process. Let us hear a short excerpt of his remarks:

[Begin Levi recording] Although we do not have a precise date yet, we have heard that U.S. Secretary of State Baker will return to the region in the next few days. This is a good sign. It proves that his efforts are bearing fruit. In Israel, he definitely found readiness to move forward and to promote the peace process. Very important understandings have been achieved. Let us not make light of the importance of these understandings and let us learn to appreciate coordination and agreement with the United States.

From what we know so far, during his regional tour he obtained positive reactions from some of the Arab countries. We have yet to learn the details. In other Arab countries, work is still necessary in order to obtain a positive response, but there was no slamming of doors. [end recording]

Minister Levi also stated that a sincere effort is being made to reach an understanding with the United States so that we will not find ourselves once again in a credibility crisis. There had been a deep crisis in our relations with the United States, Levi admitted, but the situation has changed; we are now maintaining an open dialogue with the United States, and Israel's peace initiative is assuming a serious momentum.

Levi added that the regional meeting with the Arab countries does not come in lieu of Israel's wish to talk with a delegation of Palestinians from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. It is desirable that this be a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, but this is not an absolutely necessary condition. We have not yet finalized the names of the participants in the delegation. Levi told the Knesset, but this delegation must accept the outline of Israel's peace initiative.

Another important point Levi raised: I do not think, he declared, that a policy can be conducted by using an X-ray machine and probing people's innermost thoughts or feelings; we will hold a dialogue with anybody who does not identify with or support the PLO and who is not appointed by this organization.

Next Talks To Be 'Much Tougher'

TA1504061391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Drora Perl]

[Excerpt] Secretary of State James Baker will probably arrive in Israel as early as Saturday [20 April] to pursue the U.S. efforts to promote the peace process. Last night, Jerusalem sources expected that "the next round will be much tougher than the previous one."

The sources stated that Baker's speedy return—the third within a month—reflects his intention to make a massive and concentrated effort to move Israel, the Arab countries, and the Palestinians toward political negotiations.

The sources added that in his next visit, Baker will try to bridge the discrepancies between the Israeli and the Arab stands. To that end, he will presumably concentrate on the following four central issues:

—the attempt to convince Israel to agree to a noncoercive but not one-time "regional conference;"
—the demand for a more moderate Israeli position on the matter of the Palestinian representation;
—the attempt to achieve a formulation of the Israeli stance concerning Security Council Resolution 242 that will be more acceptable to the Arab countries;
—a clarification to Israel that its present policy on settlement in the territories thwarts every effort to promote the peace process.

The sources believe that the atmosphere of accord which prevailed during Baker's last visit stemmed from negotiating tactics rather than U.S. agreement with Israel's positions. In his talks in Arab countries, said the sources, Baker learned that if he is to achieve progress, he will have to exert greater pressure on Israel on issues related to "territories for peace," to some kind of representation for East Jerusalem residents, and to settlement. [passage omitted]

Arens Discusses Talks With Baker, Aid to Kurds

TA1304095691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0705 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on 12 April; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Menashe] Mr. Defense Minister Arens, it has been said that the United States will allocate no more than three months to the political course, at which point it will turn to other options. What are the differences of opinion about, if there are any?

[Arens] I would suggest to all those who want to advance the political process—and I know that the United States wants to contribute its part to advancing the political process—not to set any time limits. We have been engaged in a political process for 43 years, since the State of Israel was founded. The political process in the Middle East is very slow; not through our fault, as everybody knows, but because of insufficient desire or incentives in the Arab world to attain peace with Israel. I think that at best this process will last a little more than three months.

[Menashe] The problem which nevertheless cropped up was the personal composition of the Palestinian delegation, the political identity of the elected delegates, and their places of residence.

[Arens] The delegation and its composition were not at all discussed in my meeting with Secretary Baker. Consequently, my impression is that we have not yet reached that point.

[Menashe] Would Israel prefer the Palestinian leadership to be part of the Jordanian delegation?

[Arens] I am not a great believer in self-appointed leaders or leaders appointed by others; I believe in elected leaders. When you say leadership I do not know exactly who you have in mind. There are quite a few people who declare themselves leaders. The population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District have not held an election, however, and it seems to me that there is nobody there who can call himself a leader.

[Menashe] Do you mean to tell me that the delegation and its character were not discussed at all?

[Arens] I can only be certain about my own session with Secretary Baker, and no mention was made in it of either the delegation, its character, or composition.

[Menashe] Has the visit of the U.S. secretary of state to Israel, Egypt, and Syria opened a new era in the Middle East?

[Arens] I would like to say that this is so—a new era in the Middle East is a very exciting and even tempting idea—but I think we had better be realistic. The Middle East does not change colors so quickly. We hope the Gulf war will make people be more realistic, and that the Arab world has learned a lesson from this episode. Therefore, there may be room for change, perhaps even a new chapter. I hope so.

[Menashe] Does Israel's consent to a regional meeting represent a change in the government's positions? Does it constitute a substantial change in Israel's stances?

[Arens] To the best of my judgment, the initiative came mainly from the Americans. Our position has been that we would be prepared to conduct direct negotiations with each of the Arab countries that is willing to talk to us. Secretary Baker proposed a regional conference in order to promote the notion of direct negotiations. Immediately after the opening session of this conference—the Americans call it a one-time event—direct negotiations would start between us and the Arab countries. The position of the Israeli Government is that, if this is the case, we would be prepared to launch direct negotiations through this regional one-time event.

[Menashe] What role do you perceive Syria playing in the negotiations? Will it be part of the process?

[Arens] I do not yet see Syria as being part of the process. The fundamental question about every Arab country in general, and about Syria in particular, is whether the country and its ruler are prepared to sit with Israel and hold direct negotiations about a peace treaty with us. We have not yet detected even a sign that al-Asad is prepared to do that. I hope he is.

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, senior ministers have criticized the prime minister for compartmentalizing them and not consulting them on important decisions. For instance, the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs convened to discuss the talks with Baker only after the latter's departure from Israel.

[Arens] I do not know whether I am considered a senior minister, but I have not leveled any such criticism. In my opinion, there is no room for such criticism. No decisions have been made at this stage. If and when we reach the point where decisions are necessary, I have no doubt that all the pertinent institutions will be convened and consulted, and eventually decisions will be made.

[Menashe] How determined do you think the United States is on the question of settlement in Judaea and Samaria?

[Arens] It is consistent. In other words, its constant position has been that it objects to Jewish settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. It even goes as far as objecting to settling Israelis in areas of Jerusalem that lie beyond the 1967 boundaries. If we speak about determination, I think we should talk about our own. We are just as determined to establish the right of Jews to settle in those areas, and on the fact that the Israeli Government will not ban Jews from settling in Judaea, Samaria, or East Jerusalem.

[Menashe] And what about immigrants?

[Arens] The prime minister has gone on record as saying that the government will not send new immigrants to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. To the best of my knowledge, this is definitely our policy and this is also what is happening in the field. [passage omitted]

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, moving on to the question of aid to the Kurdish people: The Israeli Army and the defense establishment have in the past assisted the Kurdish people. Why is the aid only symbolic this time?

[Arens] Our ability to aid the Kurds in their current plight is limited, first and foremost, by the fact that we do not share any border with the areas where the Kurds are being attacked. Those areas border with Turkey, Iran, and partly with Syria. Years ago, when Israel extended significant aid to the Kurds, we had access to those areas through Iran. The Shah was still in power, and we had good relations with Iran. That is not the case today. Therefore, all we can do must be done through a third country and it cannot be of a vast scope.

The world can definitely put an end to this tragedy. Saddam Husayn has been severely beaten up, and I think that if spoken to seriously he will now get the message much better than a few months ago. I have the feeling that he simply is not getting sufficiently serious messages.

[Menashe] From the Americans, perhaps?

[Arens] From everybody. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon on Palestinian Delegation

TA1204175391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Eli Nisan on 12 April at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; recording broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ben-Aharon] ...the conclusion of the other side regarding the whole concept, whether about this regional conference as an opening event, or whether about the

role the participants will play both in this event and during the negotiations. So this is not important. We suggested various models. Therefore, it would not be accurate—and would not reflect reality—to regard any part of the Israeli Government's attitude toward the issue of the Palestinian delegation as though it were a fixed position.

[Nisan] In that case, Mr. Ben-Aharon, what is accurate?

[Ben-Aharon] As I told you before, that we desire to move forward on both tracks. The issue of what form the representation of the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will take is still being discussed between Israel and the Arab parties, through the mediation of the United States.

[Nisan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, one of the possibilities that was mentioned was that this Palestinian delegation be a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. Has Jordan's agreement on this issue been received?

[Ben-Aharon] We are pleased with the fact that Jordan has expressed the desire to rejoin the peace process. After all, most of the population of Jordan is Palestinian. Many Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip have relatives and family on both sides of the Jordan River. It would be impossible to achieve a realistic solution to the problem with Jordan completely cut off from the process. There must be negotiations both with the Jordanian Government and with the Arabs who live here with us in these territories. If that can be integrated with Israel's sitting down with both parties in some manner or other, we think that it simply would be in our best interests. It would work for our benefit, for the benefit of the Arab residents, and even for the benefit of Jordan.

[Nisan] And have there been any signals on this matter from the Jordanian side?

[Ben-Aharon] I can refer you to statements issued by the Jordanian Government according to which it is prepared to rejoin the process. Although the Jordanian Government has once again pointed to the PLO and said that the PLO's agreement is required and so forth, we want things to be clear and we are not hiding our position: The PLO will not be part of this process and will not be involved, either directly or indirectly. I very much hope that the Arab leaders and spokesmen and the elected officials here among the Palestinian Arabs understand that if they kowtow to the orders of the PLO they will be subjecting themselves to a continued state of suffering and political paralysis.

[Nisan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, will not the participation of many Arab countries in a regional conference, as suggested by Israel, overemphasize the Palestinian problem and make Arab states adopt a more extreme position?

[Ben-Aharon] We hope there will be an understanding on the side of the Arab governments that we wholeheartedly and sincerely want to try to resolve all the problems in a parallel fashion. That is why we suggested the two-track approach. If the Arab states say that we must resolve the Palestinian problem first, that will be a sign that they do not want to resolve any problems and that they are merely using the Palestinian issue to sabotage the peace process and to harm the future and security of the State of Israel. The key is in their hands.

Abu-'Ayyash on Talks With Israel, U.S. Visit

TA1204181091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash by Yoni Ben-Menahem at Abu-'Ayyash's home on 12 April—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] What are your plans after your release?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I will be with my children for a while, then I will pursue my work as usual.

[Ben-Menahem] I mean your political plans.

[Abu'-'Ayyash] I am part of these people. I work for the welfare and safety of these people. I will continue to do whatever these people task me with. That is my mission. I believe that every Palestinian should work for a real peace, based on justice.

[Ben-Menahem] There has been strong criticism by certain parties, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, with regard to the meeting with Baker and also with regard to the formation of the Palestinian delegation in those talks. What is your own position?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I believe that as Palestinians we now are in need of unity and solidarity more than ever. There may be different views because we are not people with a single political line. There are different ideas and orientations, but I believe that the minority should not impose its views on the majority. The suffering of the Palestine people must come to an end by the achievement of their legitimate and just rights.

[Ben-Menahem] Have you received an official invitation from the U.S. Administration to visit Washington?

[Abu-'Ayyash] As far as I know, yes.

[Ben-Menahem] When will the visit take place?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I have not set a date yet because I was in detention. I do not know.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Abu-'Ayyash, what is your opinion on the recent Israeli moves with regard to the release of security detainees and exemption from taxes?

[Abu-'Ayyash] Those are minor steps. I hope that they will be followed by larger steps. I hope that we will discuss the basic issues with the Israeli side—namely,

Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, Palestinian national rights, and a just and comprehensive peace for all the nations of the region.

Peres: Labor Backs Any Forum To Advance Peace

TA1404082491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 91 p 10

[Report by political correspondent Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] The Labor Party would support any conference proposed to advance the peace process, be it called a regional, international or peace conference, Labor Party chairman Shim'on Peres told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Geneva on Friday.

Peres, the first Israeli politican to meet the secretary after the latter met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, stressed that Labor wants a conference that would not force moves by participants and would enable direct talks between the sides.

In addition, the Palestinian delegation which met Baker in Jerusalem last week would be acceptable to Labor as a partner for peace talks, Peres told the secretary of state.

Peres noted that, although a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is preferable for talks with Israel, the Palestinians also have the right to speak for themselves.

Peres warned Baker not to link an agreement with Syria and talks with the Palestinians. Linkage could stall the diplomatic process, he said, because Israel would not give up the Golan Heights, while Syria would accept nothing less.

At their 1-and-one-quarter-hour-long meeting, Baker said there would have to be action soon if the peace process were to be advanced.

Baker briefed Peres on his round of meetings in the Middle East, including his meetings with al-Asad. Peres would not divulge details of these meetings, but noted that the Syrians would participate in a regional conference on condition that it is attended by UN representatives, according to an Army Radio report yesterday.

Ben-Aharon Denies Making Remarks on Settlements

TA1304194191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, has denied making the remarks attributed to him by THE WASHINGTON POST, according to which Prime Minister Shamir was not originally aware of Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon's plans for building in the territories, but that for political considerations he decided to turn a blind eye to them after being apprised of their existence.

The denial was issued this evening to our political affairs correspondent Arye Golan.

Arens on Gulf War Plan To Hit Iraqi Missiles

TA1504085491 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by Yig'al Qotzer]

[Text] During the Gulf war the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] trained for an operation to hit Iraqi missile launching sites. This was disclosed yesterday by Defense Minister Moshe Arens. According to Arens, the Israeli action was meant to be a combined operation, not only an air action.

"We were very close to setting the Israeli operation in Iraq into motion after we concluded that the anti-Iraq coalition was steadfast, that Iraq would be defeated in the war, and in light of our assessment that Jordan would not start a war against Israel in the wake of Israeli overflights of its territory. We thought that the IDF could make a contribution to eliminating the missile threat against Israel," Arens said.

2 'Terrorists' Killed in South Lebanon Clash

TA1404101891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] A report just in from the north. Two terrorists were killed this morning in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in the western sector of the security zone. None of our soldiers was hurt. Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, reports that IDF soldiers were on an operational mission in the area. To repeat, two terrorists were killed in the clash, and none of our soldiers was hurt.

'Aziz Arrives in Amman After Yemen, Sudan Tour

JN1404075091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Amman, 14 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Amman from Khartoum last night.

The INA correspondent in Amman reports that 'Aziz visited Yemen and Sudan, where he conveyed messages from leader President Saddam Husayn to the leaders of those countries dealing with regional developments and ways of bolstering bilateral relations. Before the start of his tour Tariq 'Aziz conveyed a similar message from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Husayn.

Al-Masri Returns: Jordan Not PLO 'Alternative'

JN1304124491 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Tahir al-Masri has said that during his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Geneva yesterday, he asserted that a comprehensive and durable peace should be reached in the region as soon as possible on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and according to the principle of land for peace. In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, Mr. al-Masri said he had discussed Jordanian-American relations with the U.S. secretary of state and heard from Mr. Baker the U.S. ideas which are currently being discussed with various parties.

The foreign minister said he had explained to Mr. Baker Jordan's viewpoint that the international peace conference is the most appropriate framework for achieving progress towards peace. He said he also asserted the need for the Palestinian people to participate in the peace process as well as the right to self-determination. He said Jordan will not be an alternative to the PLO, and it should be clear that the objective of the peace process is to reach a durable and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Isareli conflict on the basis of international legality.

Mr. al-Masri, who returned to Amman last night, denied a report by Monte Carlo Radio about Jordan's acceptance of a formula which falls short of achieving a comprehensive and durable settlement.

Comments Further on Baker Meeting

JN1304193091 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Geneva yesterday dealt with Jordanian-U.S. ties. Al-Masri added that he listened to his review of the U.S. ideas currently being discussed with various parties. He went on to say that he conveyed to Baker Jordan's position, which stresses the need to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace in the region as soon as possible through the implementation of UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338 on the basis of trading land for peace. He said that he explained Jordan's position, which is that an international peace conference is the best framework for making progress.

More details follow in this interview conducted with the minister by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Mr. Minister, now that you have had talks with Mr. Baker, is there anything new in the U.S. position? Moreover, how committed and serious are the Americans about regional peace?

[Al-Masri] We had learned about the U.S. ideas presented to us from other countries during Secretary Baker's tour of some Arab countries—and also through the press. But, because this is the first high-level official, political contact, we were apprised of the outcome of Baker's tour and of his ideas, which are not final as yet. To both citizens and to us as officials, there is nothing that can be termed new or novel. Certain things, however, are crystallizing. On the question of their seriousness, the Americans say they are serious and that they want a settlement. We may have differences of opinion with them on this settlement. But, they add that if they were not serious, Baker would neither have made these intensive efforts nor repeatedly visited the region. Nor would he have continued his contacts in this regard, particularly because the Gulf crisis and the Gulf war have underscored the need to abide by international legality, the Americans contend.

[Dhiyab] Mr. Minister: Is there a change in the Jordanian position?

[Al-Masri] No, there is no change in the Jordanian position. I do not know why you ask this question. Do our questions... [corrects himself] statements show a change? If you mean that we are now focusing on substance, I believe that we have to do so. That is because we believe that Israel wants to keep the Arab parties and the United States preoccupied with a discussion of secondary and marginal issues. Israel does not want to commit itself to substantial issues. Substance for us is the formula of exchanging land for peace, the implementation of UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338, and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Israel does not want to see any party reach this point. Hence, it is proposing ideas outside this framework. Therefore, as you see, we are focusing on substance first and foremost. This does not mean that we are belittling the importance of other things. We only want to obtain a commitment in this regard from Israel and, as a matter of fact, from the United States.

[Dhiyab] Are there points of agreement and disagreement between Jordan and the Americans? Will talks continue in the future to remove the points of disagreement?

[Al-Masri] Yes, we agreed on the need to continue the dialogue. As I said, the United States has not crystallized its ideas so far. A process of floating ideas is currently under way. Further discussion of the proposals they are making is inevitable. That is because I did not give any specific answers to any specific questions in my meeting with Baker. During the talks, we mostly proposed and discussed ideas. That is all that happened.

[Dhiyab] Thanks, Mr. Minister.

[Al-Masri] Thank you. [end recording]

Amman TV Cites Baker Remarks

JN1204185391 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Geneva this evening. They reviewed the latest international developments in the aftermath of the Gulf war. They also discussed American views aimed at solving the Middle East problem and Jordan's role in the peace process. During the meeting, Baker stressed the importance of Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process.

[Begin Baker recording in English] I am looking forward to the opportunity to discuss these kinds of questions with the foreign minister of Jordan, because Jordan is a country that is very important to that process, as I indicated a month or so ago in an interview in the United States. [end recording]

A short while ago, we received a report on Tahir al-Masri's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and al-Masri's statements. The foreign minister said that Jordan would participate in a peace conference on the Middle East, expressing optimism about the available opportunities for the new peace efforts launched by the United States. Following his 90-minute meeting with Baker, al-Masri described the meeting as constructive and useful. He added that contacts between Washington and Amman would continue, but admitted there were still some points of disagreement between the American and Jordanian viewpoints. He added that all points of disagreement have not yet been settled. He said that Palestinian representation at the peace conference was raised with Baker and that Jordan does not object in principle to the formation of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, but explained that this was an issue that should be settled with the Palestinians and that Jordan does not have to propose the idea.

The foreign minister added: We believe that a peace conference is important, but we take more interest in the essence and implications of the negotiations. He added that Jordan gives priority to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to the land for peace principle.

Conference Would Yield 'Camp David'-Style Accords

JN1404094791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Negotiations and Normalization Are the Objectives of the Regional Conference"]

[Text] It seems there is a joint U.S.-Israeli understanding or agreement to ignore the PLO's role and participation in the peace process. Moreover, it seems that there is an Egyptian acceptance of this U.S.-Israeli move.

The regional conference, which Washington has accepted and which is basically a part of Shamir's plan, deliberately excludes the European Community, China, and the PLO, but accepts the participation of the Soviet Union alone in addition to the United States and the Arab states involved in the conflict.

Washington and Tel Aviv used to object to the influential Soviet role on the international arena before it vanished. They also formerly accepted the participation of the European Community and China. This indicates a change in the equation for a peaceful settlement from the U.S.-Israeli perspective.

It is strange that Washington ascribes the noninvolvement of the PLO in the peace process to the PLO's position in support of Iraq during the Gulf crisis!!

It is noteworthy that prior to the Gulf crisis, Washington absolutely rejected the PLO's participation, and even refused to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Moreover, the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue was undertaken outside the framework of official recognition of the PLO.

Israel used to object to the particiption of the Soviet Union, citing the lack of diplomatic relations between the two sides. How will Israel justify its objection to the participation of the European Community?

We believe that Washington and Tel Aviv seek a regional conference because it is based on direct negotiations between the Arab states and Israel, because Israel's card will be stronger than the Arab one due to Washington's strong presence and the Soviet Union's marginal presence, and because it will promote normalization.

Bush himself says that a regional conference will break away from the precautions that prevent Arabs and Palestinians from sitting directly opposite the Israelis!!

If the regional conference was based on international legitimacy, Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, and a clear, candid Israeli acceptance, then disagreement on the regional conference would

have become less significant for the Palestinians and Arabs, as would Israel's objection to the international conference.

Israel, however, which refuses to withdraw from the occupied territories, and with U.S. support refuses to recognize the PLO and the Palestinian people's inalienable national government, insists on a regional conference that paves the way for new "Camp David" agreements under which Arabs and Palestinians would gain nothing. Therefore, Jordan and the PLO reject a regional conference and insist on an international one.

Birri on Ways To Resist Regional Conference

NC1404071391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Minister of State Nabih Birri has said that the attempt to convene a regional conference with U.S. and Soviet participation, which will eventually lead to bilateral negotiations between individual Arab states and Israel, is an attempt to circumvent al-Asad's plan that an international conference be convened by substituting it with individual bilateral conferences. Birri said this is exactly what happened in Camp David and it will have a negative effect on Lebanon.

During a banquet held in honor of army and Internal Security Forces officers in the south yesterday evening, Minister Birri said that the implementation of plan would circumvent UN Resolution 425. He added: We must resist this plan in the following way:

1. Consolidating the plan for the deployment of the army in the south by strengthening the army with another brigade.

2. Deploying the army in the emergency area [not further identified] by the end of May.

3. As we approach the date for the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate in July, Lebanese, Arab, and Syrian diplomacy must call for the implementation of Resolution 425 instead of the routine renewal of this mandate.

4. Increasing the number of the Lebanese army personnel to 60,000 and the Internal Security Forces, which are now only 8,000 strong, to 40,000.

Al-Hirawi Address on Civil War Anniversary

NC1204204091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Public address by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the anniversary of the Lebanese civil war in Beirut on 12 April—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] O Lebanese people, on the eve of this painful anniversary, I address you to say that I do not want this to be a new year of war and tragedy and to proclaim it as the first year of peace. The time for peace has come. While your government has so far achieved a qualitative move from a state of infighting, disorder, and divisions to a situation of established security and paving the way for the various parties to come together, I wish to say that peace cannot be established by decree. It is a daily effort that every citizen and every official makes to create a dynamic movement of participation, construction, and production that will guarantee well-being for the citizens and safety for the homeland.

Considering the fact that the army and other legitimate forces are the watchful eye and arm defending our national objectives, we have taken care to regard the army as the catalyst that will safeguard the homeland and guarantee our full and undiminished sovereignty over every inch of Lebanese soil. This is an irreversible decision: The army is the school of national fusion for the sake of defending Lebanon. The doors are open to the fullest extent of our ability to every individual who believes in Lebanon, safeguards its entity, and is zealous in protecting its dignity and liberty. The army will embrace him in its ranks and entrust him with the state's weapons.

Hence, the various militias and military organizations have no future today. While we thank the militias for all the sacrifices they have made, they no longer possess any reason for being, because international and regional circumstances have developed in a positive way toward establishing peace in Lebanon and in the Middle East in general. [passage omitted]

The militias were formed 15 years ago when the state was absent or forced to be absent, but today the state—the state which is for everyone—has made its decision, regained control, and determined that it alone will be responsible, on behalf of the people, for the people and the homeland. [passage omitted]

O Lebanese people, the decisions of the Council of Ministers are binding and are being implemented to the letter. I hope that this will be done in an enlightened and rational way because today I will not accept for a single window to be broken in a citizen's home.

O Lebanese people, the national accord document is an integral whole. It lies at the heart of our new Constitution and I have sworn an oath to implement it. Any flaw in implementing any clause of this agreement will constitute a flaw in all its clauses and, consequently, will be a violation of the Constitution. We will not permit this. [passage omitted]

Let us all cooperate and act in solidarity with one another; let us look forward to the future and its prospects, instead of dwelling on the past and its sensitivities. Let us all dedicate ourselves to regaining our dear south. This is a fateful and primary issue. Responsibility for the south does not belong to any particular group or area but to the entire homeland. Anyone who impedes the implementation of the national accord agreement will be rejecting the peace and seeking to perpetuate the disorder and divisions. Such a person will prolong Israel's occupation of part of his territory. Let us seek to implement Resolution 425 and put international legitimacy to the test. We have been given serious international promises in this connection. Let us move. After today, Lebanon will not accept the presence of any weapons in the south other than those of the legitimate authorities.

If we fail or are made to fail, then it will be our right—indeed, it will be our duty—to turn ourselves into a comprehensive resistance force to reject occupation and to safeguard our dignity.

O Lebanese people, we face major challenges and the devastating legacy of a war that has left its mark on all

aspects of life. Let us all cooperate in the primary task of salvaging our homeland. If we are not worthy of the task of regaining our country and rebuilding it, then no one will rescue us.

It is my hope, after security is established, to call for free parliamentary elections so that the people's representatives will embark on a discussion of the country's future. We look forward to returning displaced citizens to their homes, means of livelihood, and villages. We look forward to the state's regaining its facilities, ports, and properties. [passage omitted]

O Lebanese, the road to peace has been clearly established by the national accord document which enjoys international and regional support. For this reason, I urge certain friendly countries which support this agreement to leave the Lebanese people to implement it alone. Likewise, I urge the Lebanese people not to give other parties the opportunity to infiltrate their ranks and intervene in their affairs again. These interventions serve only the interests of others. To the extent that we can speed up the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement in its entirety, we will progress toward establishing sovereignty and peace.

When this happens, it will be incumbent upon me to go to fraternal Syria at the head of a comprehensive national delegation to convey the Lebanese people's thanks for the efforts and sacrifices made by His Excellency brother President Hafiz al-Asad for the sake of establishing Lebanese accord and restoring Lebanese sovereignty. Then we will be able to say that we can hold the reins of the whole country and safeguard our national sovereignty. [passage omitted]

'Positive' Meeting of Militia Assimilation Group

NC1204114691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The committee charged with discussing the assimilation of the miltias met today. Minister Khatchig Babikian said that the meeting was positive and was dominated by understanding and quiet dialogue. He added that the representatives of the militias submitted lists of the their personnel. The representatives asked that the subject of the martyrs and their families be discussed. It was decided to take this subject into consideration and to submit a report on it to the eight-man committee responsible for implementing the cabinet decisions. In the light of this, we will meet again next week.

Lebanese Forces representative General Fu'ad Malik described the the results of the meeting as positive. He said that the state's representatives promised to give realistic answers for solving outstanding problems in the coming meetings. He indicated that the militias submitted a list of their personnel.

Jibril: PFLP-GC 'Will Not' Hand Over Weapons

NC1504081791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has announced that his group will not surrender its weapons in Lebanon as long as Israel occupies southern Lebanon.

At a meeting in Damascus, Jibril said: We, in the Palestinian National Salvation Front, will not be an obstacle to the collection of militia weapons. However, there is a distinction between weapons directed against brothers and weapons directed against the Zionists. All we require of Lebanon is Palestinian rights similar to the those granted them in Syria.

Tawhid Leader Hails Iran for Thwarting 'Arrogance'

LD3003125191 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Beirut, March 30, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese theologian, al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah here Friday warned against the U.S. plan to establish a military base in the Persian Gulf region and dangers of continuation of military presence of the U.S. in the Middle East. Addressing worshipers at Friday congregational prayers in southern Beirut he added that the U.S. continues to occupy part of Iraq for political rather than military reasons. Voicing support for the popular uprising in Iraq, Fadlallah condemned disrespect for Islamic holy sites in al-Najaf and Karbala'.

Meanwhile, leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban in his sermons at the Friday congregational prayers in Tripoli, in northern Lebanon, said that Iran has thwarted ominous plots of the world arrogance in the region. Shaykh Sha'ban also expressed the hope that Iran will be able to convince certain Arabs to break their alliance with the West and instead form an Islamic front to counter conspiracies of imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East especially in Palestine, Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Kashmir.

Hizballah's Al-Tufyli on Ta'if Accord, Resistance

NC1504081991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has stressed his rejection of the al-Ta'if accord, describing it as unjust.

He said that the country cannot be ruled by 31 ministers representing different sects and that they would, in effect, be 31 presidents of the republic. He asked: How can we govern with 31 heads existing in the country on the principle of sectarianism? We call for changing this system and confronting foreign plots. He said this requires an enormous effort. The Hizballah secretary

general made these statements during a graduation ceremony speech at the Cultural Unity Center in Ba'labakk yesterday. He noted that resistance becomes strong and dreaded when the people support it and stand behind it. On the other hand, when the resistance is not supported by the people it will be easy for President al-Hirawi to strike at it.

He called for the formation of a broad opposition to the state on clear-cut bases on which the opposition parties agree in order to develop the country and change the regime. This, he explained, can only be achieved by designating the mission and the goal and by people's return to Islam.

SLA Kills Two 'Terrorists' in Security Zone

TA1504092591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Early this morning, SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops killed two terrorists in southern Lebanon. This was the second clash in this area in the last two days. Yesterday, an Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] squad was liquidated by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol.

This morning, an SLA unit spotted two terrorists west of the security zone and, as said, killed them. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht adds that the soldiers found assault rifles, LAW rockets, and mines near the bodies of the terrorists. It is believed they were on their way to place mines in the security zone, and that they were Palestinians.

Clashes With Israeli Troops Reported in South

NC1404134991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The Lebanese resistance front has issued a statement saying that the martyr Khalid Khalaf's group, belonging to the martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd unit, set off an explosion yesterday on a road used by the enemy behind the Kafr Falus-Liba'-'Ayn-al-Mir frontlines. A tank of the agent militias was destroyed, and its crew members were either killed or wounded in the blast.

Shortly afterward, the enemy intensified his attacks and bombarded Popular Liberation Army [PLA] positions. PLA units returned fire with the appropriate weapons. Wide-scale clashes involving various types of weapons broke out between the two sides and continued until midnight.

AFP Reports 16 Deaths in Southern Clashes

NC1504092191 Paris AFP in English 0843 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Rashaya, Lebanon, April 15 (AFP)—An Israeli-backed militia announced Monday that Israeli troops killed four Palestinian guerrillas in clashes in south Lebanon, but a guerrilla group said its fighters killed 12 Israelis.

The Voice of the South, the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army's radio station, said Monday the Israeli Army killed two Palestinian guerrillas overnight in the western part of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone".

The radio had said Sunday that two other Palestinian fighters had been killed in the same section of the Israeli-controlled area and made no mention of Israeli casualties.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] said in a communique distributed in Beirut Monday that its commandos attacked an Israeli patrol the previous morning, killing 12 officers and soldiers and destroying an M-113 tank.

The statement added that the Israeli Army brought in reinforcements and that another clash occurred in the evening with Palestinian guerrillas who were unable to withdraw. It did not report any Palestinian casualties.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council said Sunday that its attack was "in response to the Israeli Air Force's raid Friday on Palestinian bases, including one controlled by Abu-Nidal's group, in the Sidon region, during which four fighters were killed."

Further on Secretary of State Baker's Visit

JN1204192491 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1755 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] At 1630 yesterday, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian attended the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned when the time for the iftar drew near. It was resumed one hour later.

The talks dealt with the regional situation in general and the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question in particular. Mr. Baker reviewed the outcome of his tour and talks in the region. U.S. and Syrian proposals on the regional peace process were discussed. It was agreed to continue contacts out of an eagerness to attain a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Al-Asad, Khaddam Receive Lebanese Prime Minister

JN1304172491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 13 Apr (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at 1800 today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam also received Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at 1600 today. Their talks concerned the Lebanese situation and the Lebanese Government's steps to implement the national accord charter and to consolidate security in Lebanon. The talks also dealt with the Arab situation in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Regional Issues Discussed

JN1304205691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Damascus, 13 Apr (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at 1800 today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting. Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs, and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, joined the meeting later.

The talks dealt with the Lebanese situation and the continuing steps to implement all the clauses of the Lebanese national accord document, to spread the legitimate authority's control over Lebanon, and to implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 425 on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory. The talks also dealt with the situation in the region. [passage omitted]

USSR Deputy Gas Minister Arrives for Talks

JN1204170791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Apr (SANA)—Mazur, deputy minister of the gas industry of the USSR, has arrived in Damascus on a visit of several days at the head of a delegation.

Mazur said that the objective of his visit is to meet with Syrian Oil Ministry officials to discuss the gas industry and investment in Syria, as well as ways to enhance bilateral ties of cooperation in this field.

Cooperation Praised

JN1404191491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 14 Apr (SANA)—Dr. Matanyus Habib [Syrian minister of oil and mineral resources] met here today with Mr. Mazur, deputy minister of the gas industry in the Soviet Union, who is visiting Syria.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations in all fields particularly in the field of oil and gas, and the implementation of projects to exploit Syrian gas in accordance with the protocols signed between the two sides.

Mr. Mazur praised the cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union, expressing his country's readiness to implement the projects dealing with Syrian gas.

The two sides agreed to continue meetings so as to strengthen cooperation to serve the two countries.

Commentary Says Israel Must Withdraw for Peace

JN1404151191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] While serious Arab and international efforts are being made to push forward a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East; while the whole world awaits actual and responsible action to implement the UN resolutions on the Palestine question and the occupied Arab territories and to defuse an explosive hotbed of conflict in the region; and while all voices—countries and bodies—are saying that from now on, international resolutions cannot be applied with a double standard, and that it is important to strengthen international credibility through serious action to restore to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights and the Arabs their lands that have long been occupied; at such a time in particular, the leaders of the Israeli enemy are issuing statement after statement to thwart efforts and reshuffle cards with the purpose of turning back the clock. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has claimed that the settlements have nothing to do with the peace process and that building settlements in the occupied territories does not affect in any way the expected negotiations on establishing peace in the region.

By making such a statement, it is clear that Shamir not only intends to show his disregard for the international peace effort, but he encourages the Zionists, especially the extremists among them, to continue and speed up their settlement operations to create more than one status quo in the occupied Arab territories.

When we think back to previous statements by Shamir, we see that the enemy prime minister never once expressed his readiness to return the occupied territories to their Arab owners or to recognize the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. In fact, the exact opposite is true. Shamir has openly declared that he refuses to barter land for peace. In other words, Shamir is calling on the Arabs to abandon their territories in return for a pledge not to carry out new aggressions that would result in the occupation of more Arab territories.

It is very clear that the Israeli enemy leaders are being deceptive in dealing with the international parties that are active in establishing peace in our region. This is because peace cannot take place without putting an end to occupation and oppression, and applying UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, which clearly stipulate an end to occupation.

World leaders, including U.S. President Bush, Soviet President Gorbachev, and the presidents of European countries, have expressed their commitment to implementing these two resolutions by considering them the basis of a settlement in the Middle East. President Bush said that exchanging land for peace cannot be avoided and that peace alone guarantees security and stability in the region, not geographical expansion or stockpiling of arms.

Syria and the other Arab countries have proven their good intentions toward establishing a just and permanent peace based on the UN resolutions. For this purpose, they have shown all political flexibility to hold a peace conference in the region. Neither Syria nor any other Arab country can bargain over basic principles or forfeit basic rights.

The peace conference we want must concentrate on implementing international resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338. There is no alternative to the effective and important UN role in this peace conference. This conference cannot be transformed into a theater for Israeli equivocation. Arab territories must be returned to their Arab owners. The settlements must be dismantled. All the Palestinian people must enjoy their full rights without exception. For the desired conference to be truly serious, there can be no alternative for Israel other than to express its serious readiness to implement the international resolutions that stipulate the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories—which requires setting a clear agenda, clear articles, and clear guidelines to prevent any Zionist cheating.

Middle East Peace Must Restore 'Usurped' Rights

JN1304075591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers: Arab and international efforts are intensifying, and diplomatic moves are taking place on more than one level to find a just, comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian cause. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has made a second tour of the region in less than one month to seek a solution to the region's crisis. He discussed with leaders appropriate ways for establishing peace and terminating the Arab-Zionist conflict. A just and comprehensive peace is one of the most urgent objectives of the efforts under way during Baker's tour of the Middle East region.

There is no doubt that the components of a just, comprehensive peace are known to all. These components are stipulated in the UN Security Council resolutions. The implementation of these resolutions will certainly lead to the establishnment of a just peace in the Middle East region, which has long suffered from wars and a state of instability and disturbance, whose impact has reflected on the entire world. It has been ascertained that a failure to solve the Palestinian issue, as well as the continuation of the Arab-Zionist conflict, will threaten not only the countries in the region, but also the world at large.

While we observe that international efforts and diplomatic moves to attain a just and comprehensive peace in the region are being seriously considered, we see that the Tel Aviv rulers are obstructing these efforts and these moves. Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister of the Zionist enemy, affirmed immediately following Baker's departure from occupied Palestine his commitment to the policy of settlements inside the occupied Arab territories, and declared that his government will continue to build settlements in the occupied territories. The Zionist leaders have also affirmed their abidance by their intransigent positions, foremost being their rejection of the international conference, their refusal to recognize the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, and their refusal to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which outline the principles of a just solution in the region in a manner that would secure Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. We now see that Israel continues to work to circumvent the recent international moves by reaffirming that it remains committed to its plan it proclaimed in May 1989 on the so-called autonomy rule for the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. Israel also calls for concluding partial deals which essentially conflict with the UN and Security Council resolutions.

The intransigence of the Tel Aviv rulers, their refusal to comply with the UN resolutions, and their continued defiance of the international legitimacy constitute a threat to peace and security in the region, and exacerbate

tension. This position makes it incumbent on the international community to work for implementing the UN resolutions and to compel Israel to implement them. A just, comprehensive peace in the region can be attained only if the UN resolutions are implemented. Peace cannot be termed a just peace if it does not eliminate injustice, terminate aggression, and restore usurped rights to their owners.

Commentary on Palestinian Issue, UN Resolutions

JN1204160991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, we always uphold and act in accordance with our pan-Arab principles. We do not relinquish what is right or the general welfare, we do not deceive anyone, and we do not shake hands with people and then stab them in the back. We have never breached an agreement with any Arab country. We will always act like this, relying on our masses, people, and nation. With these forceful and clear words, President Hafiz al-Asad summed up 20 years of Syria's work and its positions that have distinguished its heroic and persistent struggle to elevate the nation, fortify it, and foil the hostile plans against its very existence. In light of these forceful and clear words that leader al-Asad addressed to the ulema and clergymen, we can define the principled, firm policy that Syria has worked out for itself and fully adhered to over the years.

Syria's adherence to pan-Arab principles, foremost of which is the Palestine question, has been a firm goal. The heroic and great battles of the glorious October war and Lebanon's battles are part of that commitment. Syria fulfilled its promise to achieve the unity of Lebanon's land and people, safeguard its Arabism, and foil Israel's plans to partition it. Proceeding from this principle, Syria successfully confronted the direct Zionist invasion, which was supported by American and Atlantic interference.

Lebanon is taking long, confident steps toward restoring its well-being and national unity. Current efforts are centered on evicting the Israeli forces from the south in implementation of UN Resolution No. 425. Fraternal Lebanon would not have achieved this internationally recognized success without Syria's firm support and great sacrifices that are now being enjoyed by the Lebanese in terms of amity, peace, stability, and prosperity.

Just as Syria has completely supported Lebanon, it is completely supporting the Palestinian people, will defend their cause, and will not relinquish any of their rights. It states explicitly to all that Jerusalem comes before Golan, that the West Bank and Gaza come before Golan, that the pan-Arab cause is indivisible, and that the conflict against Zionism is also one and indivisible.

During his conversation with the ulema, leader al-Asad reviewed one aspect of Syria's pan-Arab and principled positions. He reviewed its positions on the first and second Gulf crises, whose wounds have not yet been healed and still bleed. Syria took strong positions against Iraq's invasion of Iranian and Kuwaiti territories, because it rejects war among Muslims and Arabs. Arabism is our body and Islam is our soul. Therefore, no Arab has the right to brandish his sword in the face of another Arab. Moreover, the unity of Arab and Islamic ranks is a sacred goal, and whoever bypasses commits a great sin. What would we say about those who use Arabism as a slogan to cover their actions against Muslims and then use Islam as a slogan to cover their actions against the Arabs. Islam, and Arabism, which are inseparable, as leader al-Asad said.

The Iraqi regime ignored Syria's efforts to prevent its mad war against revolutionary Iran, a Muslim neighbor and one that supports the Palestine question. The Iraqi regime also ignored Syria's efforts to secure the withdrawal of that regime's forces from Kuwait and save the Iraqi people and the region from a destructive disaster. At that time, leader al-Asad went so far as to urge the Iraqi regime to pull out of Kuwait and to promise to fight at the side of Iraq if it was exposed to any attack. This principled, clear Arab and Islamic position was based on an awareness of the higher pan-Arab interest and eagerness to preserve Syria, Iraq, and the pan-Arab cause.

We ask: Where is Iraq today, and where are those misleading slogans raised by the Baghdad regime? Just as he admitted his first mistake of attacking Iran, he should admit the terrible disaster he caused to Iraq by invading Kuwait and should withdraw from the arena and hand responsibility over to the Iraqi people that reject all these adventurous, foolish policies, instead of directing the fires of death at the people and committing a further great mistake.

National causes cannot be dealt with through superficial, misleading slogans, no matter how clever and attractive they are, and they can not be dealt with through false slogans, no matter how much they are beautified. They can be dealt with only through sound work, a sincere will, the lessons of history, and a refusal to be drawn into possible destructive positions. This is Syria's policy, and Syria will remain loyal to its people, nation, and principles. Leader al-Asad is the best qualified to steer the ship toward security and salvation.

Al-Hasakah Governor Visits Iraqi Refugee Camp

JN1204174691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Al-Hasakah/northern Syria, 12 Apr (SANA)—Iraqi refugees residing at the al-Hawl camp near the city of al-Hasakah have expressed deep satisfaction with the services being rendered to them by the Syrian authorities.

During a visit to the camp by the al-Hasakah governor, they said that the enormous aid and assistance Syria has provided to the Iraqi people has alleviated their sufferings and ordeal to a considerable and large degree.

The Iraqi refugees hoped the Iraqi people would be able to rid themselves of their arrogant ruler so that free and proud Iraq may rejoin Arab ranks.

The governor met with some of the Iraqi refugees and learned their needs.

Economic Minister Insists on Public Sector Role

PM1204113191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Apr 91 p 12

[Report on interview with Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, by Walid Najm in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, Syrian minister of state for planning affairs, has emphasized that economic pluralism exists in Syria, as does a market economy.

He pointed out that the Syrian economy has surmounted the crisis that it experienced some years ago. And that the implementation of the five-year plan requires cooperation with Arab and international capital.

In an interview he told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that all indications at all levels indicate that the Syrian economy has overcome some of the difficult predicaments that it experienced as a result of numerous circumstances and that the economy has managed to achieve successes in the various economic sectors and in attracting Arab and foreign investors. He attributed that to the stability of the Syrian pound's exchange rate in relation to foreign currencies, despite the existence of more than one price for the foreign exchange rate in Syria. Among the other indications is the stability of prices in view of the positive results achieved by the Syrian economy. [passage omitted]

On his recent visit to Brussels and his meeting with EC representatives, the minister said: The visit was within the framework of activating cooperation between Syria and the EC, its 12 states, and the European Investment Bank with regard to the lifting of the embargo on financing the protocols signed between Syria and the EC. [passage omitted]

And in general the visit was positive and the talks were fruitful, thanks to the efforts made by and cooperation between ministry and EC specialists.

On the Gulf war's effects on the Syrian economy the minister said: The effect has been felt in all the countries of the region, of which we are part. The forms of the effect have varied. With regard to Syria, it has been affected as a result of the cessation of foreign remittances and the sudden influx of workers who had been working in some Gulf states. That led to new expenditures and pressure on public amenities and schools—which has its material, qualitative, and overall effects.

As for the Syrian economy's future prospects and the possibility of a return to a market economy, the planning minister said: Economic pluralism exists in Syria. The public sector has its function that the private or joint sector cannot perform effectively. This is because the private sector tends to invest its capital in short- or medium-term projects. Whereas the public sector deals with long-term projects. And, as is known in almost all states, the public sector does not make the profits that the private or joint sector makes, because the function is different.

In general, the market economy exists in Syria, especially with regard to to the main commodities, and the markets bear witness to that. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Najibullah Appeals to Bush To Pressure Pakistan

LD1404220491 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Esteemed President Najibullah of Afghanistan has sent a message to Washington, addressed to U.S. President George Bush on the occasion of the third anniversary of the signing of the Geneva accords.

The message explains the Islamic and humanitarian national reconciliation policy of the Republic of Afghanistan, and its pursuance of foreign policy aims based on the principles of the UN Charter. Relying on the new political atmosphere in the international arena and the full implementation by Afghanistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords, stress has been placed on mutual friendship and cooperation with all countries of the world, and especially with neighboring countries, among them the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The message adds that, despite the good intentions and good-neighborly attitude of Afghanistan toward Pakistan, the Pakistani side has not only not shown goodwill in this connection, but, by openly violating the provisions of the Geneva accords, international law, and all the accepted international norms and principles of the modern world, continues its aggression, conspiracies, and schemes against the sovereignty of Afghanistan more intensively and harshly than before.

The message appeals to his excellency as president of a great and civilized country and a guarantor of the Geneva accords, on the principle that aggression should be crushed and condemned wherever it takes place, to exert pressure on Pakistan's Government so that it refrains from conspiracies and schemes against Afghanistan, avoids attacking the cities of Afghanistan, observes the provisions of the Geneva accords, and respects the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Najibullah Sends Gorbachev Message on Pakistan

LD1404211991 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Esteemed President Najibullah of Afghanistan has sent a message to Moscow, addressed to Mikhail S. Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the signing of the Geneva accords.

The message states that the Republic of Afghanistan as signatory and the Soviet Union as guarantor have fulfilled all their undertakings to implement the Geneva agreements. Regrettably, however, the Government of Pakistan, infringing upon the letter and spirit of the accords, has further intensified and expanded its interference and armed aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan. These Pakistani acts of aggression are occurring when the Republic of Afghanistan has put forward realistic proposals for normalizing relations with that country. Expressing gratitude for the sincere and constant assistance of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan, the message points out to His Excellency President Gorbachev that Pakistan, by open and grave infringement upon the Geneva accords, not only calls the credibility and authority of the United Nations and its guarantors into question, but also sets the international situation on a different course, at a time when the situation has been moving toward the alleviation of regional tensions. (?His excellency is asked) to exert more efforts and use his international prestige and credibility to prevent Pakistan's interference and aggression and help reach a political and peaceful solution of the Afghan issues.

Najibullah Issues Decree on Refugees' Return

LD1404213991 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The presidential press office reported that, to provide better facilities for the return of compariots to the homeland, a decree from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has been issued with the following text:

In light of Article 36 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan and for the purpose of realizing the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation, observing the values stated in the international declaration of human rights, acquainting compatriots abroad with the development of domestic situations in the country, as well as providing better conditions for visiting families and friends, the following steps are approved:

Article 1:

1. Our compatriots—including scholars, scientific and technical cadres, students, pupils, women, men, youths, and children—who have left the country up to the end of the year ending 20 March for a variety of reasons and are living outside the country as refugees, can, by possessing a passport from the Republic of Afghanistan, come to the homeland and, if desired, return to the country of residence.

2. Compatriots mentioned in the first paragraph of this article who have gone to Iran, Pakistan, or other foreign countries, or have taken refuge without passports, after obtaining a paper to return home or (?obtaining) passports from the political representations of the Republic of Afghanistan abroad, can come to Afghanistan to see their families, relations, and friends and, if they wish, return to the country where they reside.

Article 2:

1. Compatriots included in the first paragraph of the first article who are under call-up and conscription conditions are granted six months postponement.

2. Students and pupils who have gone abroad to study will be enrolled in their relevant educational institutions in the event of their return and will be given deference papers to the end of their study.

3. Persons included in the first and second paragraphs of this article, in the event they [words indistinct] wish to return within six months to the country where they reside, will be granted a passport.

Article 3:

Political representations of the Republic of Afghanistan abroad are commissioned, in accordance with Article 73, to issue passports to the citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who want to return, or extend the validity of their passports.

Article 4:

Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who return home under the articles of this decree are entitled to benefit from the rights and privileges enshrined in the amnesty decrees of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 5:

This decree is enforced as from the date of issue. It is to be published in press and official gazettes. With its enforcement, Decree No. 295, dated 29 October 1987, of the Revolutionary Council Presidium is null and void.
[Signed] Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan.

Presidential Decree Offers Military Amnesty

LD150402269l Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Presidential decree "on the extension of Decree 1540"—announcer-read]

[Text] In light of national reconciliation and to continue the humanitarian measures of the Republic of Afghanistan on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr and to further facilitate the return of Armed Forces members who left their duties for certain reasons, the following is approved:

Article 1: Decree 1540, dated 14 April 1991 on the pardon of punishment on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the national reconciliation announcement shall be extended. The decree will be extended as from its expiry until 19 August 1991, the date the country regained independence, in respect of Armed Forces members with the following annex and amendment:

1. The provisions of the decree apply to those Armed Forces members who left the country, up to the date of the enforcement of this decree, due to reasons mentioned in Article 2, if they return to their units and related installations for the discharge of service by 19 August 1991, the country's independence day.

2. Article 7 of the decree shall be amended as follows: If those included in this decree are sentenced to imprisonment and to pay a fine, the fine shall be paid in installments.

Article 2: This decree shall be sent to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Afghanistan for publication in the official gazette of the Republic of Afghanistan.
[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Workers Urged To Deal 'Last Blow' to Regime

BK1304141991 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Peshawar, April 12—The Chief of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan [HEA], Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has stressed upon his party workers to go to the war front inside Afghanistan to give the last blow to the puppet Kabul regime.

Addressing a huge Juma [Friday] congregation at Shamshatu refugee mosque Friday afternoon, he informed the gatherings that Kabul regime was breathing his last and it was incumbent upon all of them to award the final lash to it. He predicted fall of Najib regime and exhorted workers to report to the nearest military bases of the party.

Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar disclosed that the Kabul army was no more ready to fight for the survial of the regime as it was facing great despondency. "Najib has been trying to purify his forces by making large scale arrests amongst the high ranks of the army but this in fact worked adversely," he remarked. More than 160 high-ranking officials of the army have been arrested on the charges of coup attempts and mistrusts during the past four months, he disclosed.

The HEA chief said the Kabul army has seen its dark future and it has become tired of fighting against its own nation for the sack [as published] of Najib and it no more likes to keep Najib in the power saddle.

Commenting over the capture of Khowst he said this success has opened the gate for the capture of Kabul. The nation will soon hear good news about the fall of communist puppet government in Kabul, he added.

Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar debunked the claims of Western media attributing the capture of Khowst to one or another person. He threw light on the day-to-day advancements of Mujahidin during the Khowst fighting. He said that the Western media by projecting some and ignoring others for the capture of the Khowst garrison wanted to create fuss in Mujahidin ranks. "But by the grace of Allah Almighty we are united and there is no difference between us," he maintained.

Hekmatyar said the control of Khowst was in the hands of joint Shura [Consultative Council] of Mujahidin and they were making all out efforts to restore peace and rebuild the captured city.

He extolled the bravery of eminent Mujahidin commander Hazrat Mohammad who played a key role in breaking the strong defence of Najib forces in Khowst and led his Mujahidin to step the first pace inside Khowst from the fronts.

Former Minister Panjsheri, Others Flee to Bulgaria

BK1304131091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1258 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Islamabad, April 13 (AFP)—Former Afghan Minister and ex-Ambassador Ghulam Dastgir Panjsheri has fled the country to seek asylum in Bulgaria, a resistance government official said Saturday.

Quoting informed sources in Kabul, Abdul Hameed Minhaj, a senior official at the Information Ministry of the Pakistan-based mujahidin government said Mr. Panjsheri, 58, had fled Kabul along with Afghan officials Abdul Karim Ishaq and Hashmat Kayhani.

The trio recently sought asylum in Bulgaria, Mr. Minhaj said without giving exact dates.

Known as a pro-Soviet intellectual, Mr. Panjsheri has held various ministerial and diplomatic assignments under successive communist governments in Afghanistan.

A former professor of literature at Kabul University, Mr. Panjsheri has served as a member of the Politburo and Central Committee of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDPA) which President Najibullah has renamed the Watan Party.

Independent confirmation was not immediately available. Resistance sources said Mr. Panjsheri's relations with the Afghan ruler had cooled since an abortive coup by Mr. Najibullah's Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai in March last year.

Jailed from 1969-72 by ex-King Zaher Shah for his political activities, Mr. Panjsheri, a fence sitter in the PDPA, has led his own group in the party's Khalq faction.

Rebels Bombed To Preempt Attack on Jalalabad

BK1304141691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Islamabad, April 13 (AFP)—Afghan planes have been heavily bombing mujahidin positions around Jalalabad as the regime reinforced Afghanistan's third largest city amid fears of guerrilla attacks, resistance sources said Saturday.

In what they termed pre-emptive strikes, the sources said major guerrilla bases had been under attack for the past two days.

The bombing runs have caused "extensive human and material losses" in Khogiani, 45 kilometres (28 miles) west of Jalalabad, the sources said adding that at least 26 bombs rained down on another guerrilla stronghold in nearby Mimly village Thursday.

They did not give exact casualty figures but added that hundreds of mud houses were damaged or destroyed while a number of cattle were killed in the raids.

The sources said the bombing continued amid the despatch of convoys carrying military supplies to Jalalabad, capital of the eastern province of Ningarhar, which the regime feared could be the resistance's next target after the March 31 fall of the eastern town of Khowst.

Both Jalalabad and Khowst had remained the resistance's favourite targets in their 12-year struggle to overthrow Kabul's pro-Moscow President Najibullah.

A major resistance offensive to capture the first Afghan city across the Khyber pass failed two years ago because of an inadequate supply of weapons.

Mujahidin sources said the fall of Khowst has offered them stocks sufficient for an unspecified future operation.

Informed resistance sources said top guerrilla commanders have ruled out a peaceful solution of the Afghan issue and were to meet some time next week to plan their strategy for the next combined assault.

They said the guerrillas want to keep up the tempo of their success after the morale boosting victory in Khowst.

Meanwhile, the resistance-run MIDIA news agency Saturday claimed that Soviet advisors were supervising Scud missile attacks on the mujahidin in Khowst. They said more than 40 Scuds were launched in the run up to the garrison's fall while another 20 have slammed into Khowst since the government troops were defeated there.

Resistance sources said the Kabul government has rushed tanks and armoured carriers to Logar Province, next to Kabul, after reports of a possible guerrilla offensive.

Logar lies on the route to Gardez, a town 70 kms (43 miles) from Khowst, which is also threatened by the mujahidin.

Further on Preemptive Strike

BK1404163391 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the Kabul regime resorted to heavy air strikes in the [word indistinct] of Nangarhar Province this morning. The regime's jet fighters severely pounded mujahidin positions inside the eastern parts of Jalalabad. The purpose of air bombardment is to stop mujahidin from advancing toward Jalalabad. One report says the Afghan freedom fighters have downed a reconnaissance aircraft of the Kabul regime, killing the crew. Mujahidin also attacked a supply convoy at (Sang-e Awagjan) and destroyed a number of

tanks and killed about 50 Kabul regime troops. According to another report, mujahidin are encircling another base at Qeysar in Faryab Province near the Soviet border. Two hundred Kabul regime troops are reported to have joined the mujahidin along with their arms, while other [word indistinct] troops have been offered general amnesty for surrendering to mujahidin.

'Heavy Clashes' Reported in Lowgar Province

BK1404144291 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 p 10

[Text] Lowgar, April 13—The Kabul regime has pre-empted the attack of Mujahidin in Lowgar province by sending a big force comprising tanks, APC's [armored personnel carriers] and infantry, reports Afghan News Agency.

Latest reports say that heavy clashes are taking place in different areas of the province including Mohammad Agha District in which lie main route from Kabul to Lowgar province.

The second purpose of the Kabul regime attack in Lowgar is to get reinforcements through to Gardeyz which seems to be the second target of Mujahidin after the capture of Khowst. Mujahidin are reported to have repulsed regime attacks by inflicting heavy blows to the intruding forces of the Kabul regime but details could not be gathered immediately.

Meanwhile the chief of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan [HEA], Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar rushed back to the fighting areas to supervise Mujahidin operations.

Meanwhile the Jehad Amir [leader of the holy war] of Paktia province who was the General Commander of HEA in Khowst, Engineer Faiz Mohammad has said that the death toll of the regime forces in Khowst fighting was about 3560 while thousands of them were made captives. In an interview with Afghan News Agency correspondent he said that about 100 Mujahidin embraced martyrdom while around 300 sustained injuries. He put the regime casualties double the Mujahidin figure.

Engineer Faiz Mohammad said that the fall of Khowst has opened the gate for the capture of Kabul. He said that if all the Mujahidin get united for a decisive attack on Kabul the regime would not be able to resist. He called upon the Mujahidin [to] force unity in their ranks and files and prepare themselves for a final blow to the despicable regime so as to end the miseries of the Afghan nation and establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Replying to a question regarding the strategy of Mujahidin in Khowst he said that the local commanders had formed seven fronts in Khowst and in every front each group had a fully experienced commander who was also designated as a member of the local Shoora [Consultative Council]. He disclosed that during the fighting for Khowst Mujahidin has two kinds of Shooras. One was military Shoora to which a three member delegation was inducted from each political organisation while in another shoora a commander from each front participated and thus the whole operation was conducted under the supervision of seven commanders.

Engineer Faiz Mohammad, who himself survived a bullet shot in Khowst, told that Mujahidin entered the besieged garrison in three groups from three sides i.e. from Wazyan, Alizai and Dakiti sides and knocked out the regime's defending positions.

He said, the Mujahidin of HEA entered the Khowst city from the Matoon Ghundai side, one of the most strategic points in the defence of the city and depreived the besieged forces of their central command. From the southern side Mujahidin got control over the radio station, Khad headquarters, and the Sarandoi command and reached Takhta Beg. He said that from the other side Mujahidin captured the tank brigade, artillery brigade, border brigade, mechanical workshop, transport centre, mechanical school, genral hospital and the wireless headquarters which were still under the guard of HEA (Hekmatyar's) Mujahidin.

He clarified that not a single soldier surrendered before Mujahidin but they were forced to lay down their arms. He continued that after the capture of these places a number of regime personnel ran for refuge to Tani areas, but were captured by Majahidin there. To a question regarding the differences among Mujahidin over the booty captured in Khowst, Engineer Faiz Mohammad said that there is no misunderstanding between the Mujahidin over the issue. He alleged that it was the western media that painted the dark picture to create rifts in Mujahidin ranks and to devalue their victory in Khowst.

Soviet Advisers 'Guiding' Kabul Scud Launches

BK1404150891 Lahore THE NATION in English 14 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—The Soviets are guiding the Kabul forces to fire Scud missiles on Mujahidin at Khowst, a high-ranking army officer of the Kabul regime who was captured at Khowst, told MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN].

It is reported that 40 Scud missiles had been fired during the defence of Khowst garrison against Mujahidin. The report said that 20 of them were fired from the missile launching pads at Mazar-e Sharif.

The captured army officer disclosed that the Soviet advisers were assisting Kabul forces in Chinar area near Khawaja Rawash Air Base.

Kabul, Rebel Forces Clash in Samangan, Farah

BK1304104891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have captured four more posts in Samangan Province. They also

killed 18 Kabul regime soldiers and seized two tanks and a substantial quantity of arms. Most of the Kabul regime soldiers were killed in the operation. [sentence as heard].

According to another report from Farah Province, 32 Kabul soldiers were killed in a fierce clash between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces near the town of Delaram along the Kabul-Qandahar highway.

Bangladesh

Ershad Accused of Private Use of Funds, Aircraft

BK1304030491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1702 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Dhaka, April 12 (AFP)—A government agency has accused former Bangladeshi President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of using defence helicopters for personal use and spending state funds on his wife's foreign trips, police said Friday.

The fresh accusations came when the anti-corruption bureau filed two more cases Thursday with the local police against Mr. Ershad, who is already on trial before a special tribunal on two charges involving unauthorised possession of weapons and corruption, they said.

The bureau accused the ousted president of using Air Force helicopters for frequent visits to one of his priests in Atroshi village in the Western district of Faridpur.

It alleged that Mr. Ershad made 80 trips to Atroshi with aviation fuel alone costing the government more than 1.6 million taka (about 44,500 dollars).

He also made another 20 trips to the priest, "causing a huge loss to the government on fuel and other expenses," the bureau said, adding since the visits to Atroshi, 55 kilometres (35 miles) from here, had nothing to do with official work "all expenses incurred on that account should have been borne by him personally."

The bureau also alleged the 61-year-old president misused 11.4 million taka (316,665 dollars) by approving unnecessary foreign trips for his wife, Begum Raushan Ershad.

The couple is under detention at a government villa since the former general, who came to power in a 1981 bloodless coup, was forced to step down in December in the face of mass protests.

The bureau alleged Mr. Ershad approved seven trips for his high-profile wife between April 1989 and November 1990 to attend different seminars abroad despite knowing the visits were unnecessary.

The trial of the former president before the tribunal on the weapons and corruption cases will resume next week.

The filing of two new cases with police came a day after parliament unanimously demanded Mr. Ershad be moved from house arrest in a government villa to the high-security Dhaka central jail.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who also holds the interior portfolio, assured the house Wednesday that Mr. Ershad would be moved to the central jail soon after necessary legal formalities were completed.

Official sources said Friday that a VIP cell within the jail was being prepared for Mr. Ershad, who is expected to be transfered in a day or two.

Meanwhile, 28 members of parliament from Mr. Ershad's ousted ruling Jatiya Party asked the government not to move the former president to jail.

Some of the MPs [members of Parliament] met Thursday with acting president Shahabuddin Ahmed requesting him to intervene, arguing that security in jails had deteriorated, officials said.

One prisoner was killed during a jail break in Dhaka Monday during which thirteen convicts escaped.

Two More Graft Charges Filed

BK1504050691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0432 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Dhaka, April 15 [AFP]—A government agency has filed two more graft charges against Bangladesh's deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his wife Raushan.

The bureau of anti-corruption said in a statement Monday the charges involved misappropriation of 50 million taka (1.38 million dollars) in purchases of government land in the much sought after Kawran Bazaar commercial area.

The case also involved four other people, including the former chief of the capital development authority, the bureau said.

The bureau said Mr. Ershad influenced the sale of high-value land to his associates at nominal prices, while his wife obtained another piece of land in the same area using a false name.

On Thursday, the bureau accused Mr. Ershad of using defence helicopters for personal use and spending state funds on his wife's foreign trips.

The 61-year-old former Army general, who stepped down amid popular dissent in December, is currently interned at a government villa while on trial by a special tribunal on charges of corruption and possession of illegal weapons.

Meanwhile, the international investigation company Fairfax, famed for unearthing India's Bofors scandal, has reportedly traced 50 million dollars kept in secret bank accounts by Mr. Ershad and millions of dollars of assets in Maryland, California and New York.

THE NEW NATION newspaper, quoting highly placed government sources, said Monday that the money was in the form of "capital notes" bought from the New York branch of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). BCCI was reportedly involved in drug money laundering.

The Fairfax investigation was commissioned by Bangladesh's interim government of acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Bhutanese Foreign Minister Makes 3-Day Visit

Arrives With Message for Zia

BK1004154491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister of Bhutan Dawa Tsering arrived in Dhaka Wednesday [10 April] morning on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. On his arrival, he told newsmen at the airport that his country attaches great importance to its relationship with Bangladesh. The Bhutanese foreign minister said he is carrying a message from King Jigme Singye Wangchuk for Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. During his stay, he will have talks with his Bangladesh counterpart and other senior officials on promotion of bilateral relations. The Bhutanese foreign minister was greeted at the airport, among others, by Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman.

Meets With Acting President

BK1204161291 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The visiting Bhutanese foreign minister, Dawa Tsering, called on the acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, in Dhaka today. During the meeting, the Bhutanese foreign minister conveyed to the acting president the greetings of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk and said the king attaches highest importance to bilateral relations between Bhutan and Bangladesh. He congratulated Justice Shahabuddin for holding free, fair, and impartial parliamentary elections. Justice Shahabuddin expressed his happiness at the existing cooperation between the close neighbors in various fields.

The Bhutanese foreign minister also called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and congratulated her on her assumption of office of the prime minister of Bangladesh.

Talks Bilateral Trade With Rahman

BK1204161491 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Visiting Bhutanese Foreign Minister Dawa Tsering had a meeting with Finance and Planning Minister Mohammad Saifur Rahman in Dhaka today. They exchanged views on different aspects of bilateral issues and matters of common interest, particularly the expansion of trade and commerce between the two countries. Bhutanese Ambassador Karma Dorjee was present on the occasion.

India

National, Assembly Election Schedules Detailed

BK1204160891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Elections for the Lok Sabha and six assemblies will be held on the 20th, 23d, and 26th of next month. The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, announced this at a crowded press conference in New Delhi this evening. He said the poll schedule for Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab will be announced at a later date as major political parties have expressed the view that the present situation in these states is not conducive for holding elections. Mr. Seshan said special security arrangements will have to be made for these states.

The states which will have simultaneous assembly elections are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and the union territory of Pondicherry.

The presidential notification calling upon the electorates to choose their representatives for the 10th Lok Sabha will be issued on the 19th of this month. The last date for filing of nominations will be the 26th of this month. Scrutiny will take place the next day and the last day for withdrawal will be the 29th of this month. Mr. Seshan said the election process will be completed on the 31st of May. He said there are nine vacancies in the legislative assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Mizoram. The commission has decided to hold by-elections to these nine assembly seats along with the Lok Sabha polls.

National Front Releases Election Manifesto

BK1404163191 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The National Front has promised job reservations for the socially and educationally backward classes, genuine autonomy for the states, and effective steps to check the price rise. The National Front manifesto, released in New Delhi today, reaffirms its resolve to reserve 27 percent jobs for the socially and educationally backward classes. In addition, 5 to 10 percent jobs will be reserved for economically backward sections not covered by the Mandal Commission recommendations. The manifesto says all vagrant and denotified tribes are to be included in the list of scheduled tribes. The minorities commission will be given a statutory status and a special mixed anti-riot force will be created to put down communal riots. The manifesto outlines five

objectives to be achieved through democratic decentralization. These are unity, social justice, secularism, federalism, and self-reliance. Referring to center-state relations, the manifesto says the states will be given genuine autonomy and adequate financial resources and administrative powers.

The National Front reiterates that the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [Ayodhya temple-mosque] dispute be resolved either through a negotiated settlement or the process of law. The front promises formulation of a national policy on agriculture.

On the economic front, the manifesto says priority will be given to curbing the price rise and employment generation to eradicate unemployment within a decade. The front also promises to make the right of information a fundamental right and to amend the official secrets act.

On foreign policy, the manifesto says efforts to normalize relations with Pakistan will continue and traditional friendly relations with the Soviet Union will be maintained. Attempts will be made to strengthen relations with the United States and European and Commonwealth countries, and Japan. The manifesto was released by the chairman of the National Front, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, and its convener, Mr. V.P. Singh.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr. V.P. Singh criticized the BJP for generating intense communal feelings. Referring to terrorist activities, particularly in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, he said the National Front is convinced that the ultimate solution lies in the restoration of faith in the democratic process within the federal Constitution.

Election-Related Upheavals in Janata Dal Party

Will Not Contest Elections

BK1304034291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Five senior Janata Dal leaders have decided not to contest the comining Lok Sabha elections in protest against, what they called, the policies of the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh. An agency report says that they have written to the party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, conveying their decision to opt out of the election as also from the party panels being set up in connection with the coming polls. The leaders are: Mr. Arun Nehru, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, Mr. Satyapal Malik, Mr. Ram Dhan and Mr. Dinesh Trivedi. They charged the party leadership with inciting divisive and caste-based forces. They said there had been no discussions in the party before important decisions were taken.

Meanwhile, the Janata Dal has set up a 12-member central election committee headed by the party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai. The members include Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. George Fernades, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, Mr. Sharad Yadav, and Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan. None of the protesting five leaders has been included in the committee.

The party's national executive is meeting in New Delhi today to decide on seat adjustments with the Janata Dal-S in Karnataka. This was stated by Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde yesterday.

Top Party Leaders Resign Posts

BK1304093491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Five senior Janata Dal leaders—Mr. Arun Nehru, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, Mr. Satyapal Malik, Mr. Ram Dhan, and Mr. Dinesh Trivedi—resigned from the party posts today in protest against what they called suppression of dissent within the party. According to an agency report, three others—Mr. Chandra Mohan Singh Negi, Mr. Mohammad Aslam, and Mr. Mohan Guruswami—have also resigned from the party posts. In a joint letter addressed to the party president, Mr. S. R. Bommai, the leaders said the step was taken in the larger interests of the Janata Dal. The senior leaders had earlier announced that they would not contest the general elections. [passage omitted]

Party Spokesman Rebuts Criticism

BK1304162191 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The Janata Dal says there is no lack of internal democracy within the party even if some senior party leaders who resigned from their posts boycotted the national executive meeting of the Janata Dal in New Delhi today. The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, told newsmen that there is no substance in the criticism of Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan against the party leadership and about suppression of dissent within the party. Earlier, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, member of the national executive; Mr. Arun Nehru, member of the political affairs committee in the national executive; Mr. Satyapal Malik, former chief whip of the Janata Dal parliamentary party; Mr. Mohan Guruswami, member of the publicity committee; Mr. Mohammad Asalm, general secretary of the Uttar Pradesh [UP] unit; and Mr. Chandra Mohan Singh Negi, vice president of the UP Janata Dal; resigned from their party posts. Besides them, Mr. Ram Dhan and Mr. Dinesh Trivedi also resigned from the party posts. They have announced their decision not to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Congress-I's Yashpal Kapur Joins Janata Dal-S

BK1404161691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Mr. Yashpal Kapur, a member of the AICC-I [All India Congress-I Committee], today resigned from the Congress-I and joined the Janata Dal-S. He announced his decision at a news conference in New Delhi. Mr.

Puran Sen, general secretary of a faction of the Lok Dal, also said that he is joining the Janata Dal-S.

Punjab Akali Dal Party To Contest Elections

BK1404130891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The Shiromani Akali Dal president, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, has said that his party will contest elections in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh. Talking to newsmen in Bhatinda today, he said it will have a poll alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party.

Punjab Government To Elect Municipal Bodies

BK1204162691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The Punjab government has decided to hold elections to all the municipal committees in the state by the 15th of November this year. This decision was taken at a meeting chaired by the governor, General O.P. Malhotra, in Chandigarh today. The state government has already announced that election to three municipal corporations of Amritsar, Jullundur, and Ludhiana will be held on the 28th of this month.

Reaction to Punjab, Assam Election Idea Cited

BK1204163091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI [Communist Party of India], and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] have demanded delinking of elections in Punjab from the polls in the rest of the country. In separate statements, the spokesmen of the three parties said in New Delhi that this is necessary to ensure deployment of adequate forces for a free and fair poll in the state. The BJP also urged the government not to postpone the corporation elections in Amritsar, Jullundur, and Ludhiana under any pretext.

A Congress-I delegation headed by Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan today to express the party's concern over the government's decision on holding elections in Punjab and Assam. Later, briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said the delegation urged the president to ensure that elections in the two states are held only when the situation is peaceful enough to conduct the polls in a free and fair manner.

The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, has said in New Delhi that the center has directed the Punjab government to take firm action against those who might try to hamper the political process in the state in the wake of the coming elections. Talking to our correspondent, the minister said the center will soon come out with a notification under which no future government in Punjab will be able to take vindictive steps against civil servants without the sanction of the Union Home Ministry.

He indicated that military operations in Assam are likely to be suspended after the issue of notifications for the elections. Mr. Subodh Kant earlier had a meeting with the governors of Punjab and Assam to discuss the law and order situation in the two states.

The Janata Dal-S spokesman, Mr. S.P. Malaviya, has said that the center has recommended elections in Punjab and Assam as it felt that the people of these states should not be deprived of their democratic rights. Talking to newsmen in Trivandrum, he said the state units of the party have been asked to explore the possibility of making seat adjustments with other parties, except the BJP, for the coming elections.

The Shiromani Akal Dal chief, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, said that the assembly elections in Punjab should not be delinked from the parliamentary polls. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh, he said the executive committee of his party is meeting tomorrow to decide whether the party will participate in the polls.

The All India Sikh Students Federation and the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temples Management] Committee have welcomed the center's decision, saying that it has generated a new hope in the minds of the people of the state.

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Jammu and Kashmir state unit of the Janata Dal-S have urged the center to hold elections in Jammu and Ladakh regions where the conditions are normal.

BJP Faults Election Symbol; Advani Arrested

BK1504092891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, has said that his party is considering facing the elections with a new symbol. He said a final decision will be taken in a day or two. The party today held a demonstration near the election commission office in New Delhi in protest against the commission's decision to admit the Congress-I leader, Mr. Arjun Singh's petition for freezing the BJP's lotus symbol. The BJP says the ruling goes against the commission's decision at an earlier case.

Meanwhile, the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has denied the allegations that he had a hand in the appointment of Mr. T.N. Sheshan as the chief election commissioner. Addressing newspersons at Indore today, Mr. Gandhi said the BJP should have confidence in the chief election commissioner once he has been appointed. He accused the BJP of making efforts to divide the country on communal lines. Mr. Gandhi also charged the Janata Dal government headed by Mr. V.P. Singh with carrying out surveillance at his residence. Addressing a rally at Mall near Indore this morning to mark the birth centenary of Dr. Ambedkar, Mr. Gandhi said that the

country needs a stable and strong goverment at the center to bring down prices and check the spread of casteism.

A message just received says several BJP leaders, including the party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Mr. L.K. Advani, Professor V.K. Malhotra, Mr. Madanlal Khurana, and Mr. Sikander Bakht courted arrest.

Police: All Arrested BJP Leaders Released 15 Apr

BK1504162191 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, says his party is prepared to face any eventuality in the lotus symbol case. He said the party will face elections with a new symbol, if the election commission freezes the lotus symbol. Addressing newsmen in New Delhi this evening, Mr. Malkani also criticized Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, for instructing the law minister to initiate contempt proceedings against Mr. L.K. Advani for his comments against the chief election commissioner's order. He said the president should intervene to defend the constitution.

The BJP held a demonstration in New Delhi today against the alleged partisan order of the election commission in admitting the application filed by Mr. Arjun Singh of the Congress-I seeking deregistration and derecognition of the BJP as a political party and freezing of its symbol, lotus. Several party leaders courted arrest. Police said all of them were later released.

Karwar Naval Base Work Likely To Begin in 1992

BK1304093691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The chief of the Naval staff, Admiral L. Ram Das, has said that major work on the (Seabird) Naval Base at Karwar in Karnataka is likely to start next year. The proposed Naval base, to be completed in phases, would be a modern integrated center for meeting the needs of the Navy. Adm. Ram Das was speaking today after opening the state-owned Indian Oil Corporation [IOC] oil bunkering terminal in the coastal town. Built at a cost of about 82 lakh rupees, the 2,000-ton-capacity oil terminal is connected to the jetty at the Karwar port, 1.6 km away, by two pipelines. This is IOC's first oil bunkering terminal to be commissioned in the country. The terminal supplies diesel and furnace oil to the Navy and merchant ships, dredges, and deep-sea fishing vessels.

Japan To Grant $500 Million in Aid for Crisis

BK1404092691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Japan is to give an assistance worth $500 million to help India get over its short-term problems caused by falling foreign exchange reserves. The finance minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, told newsmen in New Delhi today on his return from Tokyo that $150 million assistance from Japan would be available immediately to meet the urgent import requirements of petroleum products. It is in the shape of Japan cofinancing a loan from the Asian Development Bank [ADB]. The remaining $350 million assistance has been promised through the aid-India consortium. An informal meeting of the consortium countries will be held in Washington toward the end of this month. He said some other donor countries are also expected to extend friendly assistance at the same time.

Mr. Yashwant Sinha said that during his meetings with the Japanese ministers for foreign affairs and finance and also with the representatives of the banking institutions, there was a clear indication that Japan is keen to help India.

Answering questions, he categorically stated that India is not falling into any debt trap. He, however, cautioned that there is an urgent need to take corrective measures to ensure that there is no such risk. Giving reasons for India securing loans from the IMF and also from countries like Japan, he said his attempt is to make sure that adequate provision is made till July so that when the new government takes over, it has enough time to formulate its policies in the best national interest.

Mr. Yashwant Sinha pointed out that when the Chandra Shekhar government took over, the foreign exchange reserves position was extremely tight. The country's economy had been allowed to drift for long years and the situation worsened, particularly during 1987 and 1989. The National Front government took some corrective steps but they were not pursued. He said apart from getting help from friendly countries to tide over immediate problems, the present government has taken specific steps to reduce the fiscal deficit by restricting imports and speeding up the realization of export earnings. He pointed out that the country is to get $1 billion of export payments which have been pending for more than six months. The exporters did not seem to be keen on getting early payments. Consequently, the Reserve Bank of India has made more stringent provisions to make delay in the realization of payments less attractive to the exporters. Giving details, he said the rate of interest and credit against post-shipment exports, which is 8.65 percent at present, will be hiked to 16 percent for the entire period if the payment is delayed beyond 90 days. In case of delays beyond 180 days, the interest will be charged at the rate of 18 percent for the entire period. However, if the payment is realized within 90 days, the interest will be only 8.65 percent.

The finance minister refuted the allegation that the government has made any new commitment to the Asian Development Bank [ADB]. Answering a question, he said in his letter to the ADB, he has conveyed only the government policies being pursued at present and no fresh commitment has been made for securing loans from the bank.

Iran

Rafsanjani Delivers First Sermon on Palestine

LD1204193991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1122 GMT 12 Apr 91

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 12 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: [passage omitted] I have devoted one sermon to Jerusalem Day and one sermon to special Persian Gulf issues. [passage omitted] About Palestine, Beyt al-Moqaddas [House of the Holy i.e. Jerusalem], Israel, I will raise some points in the form of a list and I believe that these important points which must always remain alive because they are vital and pertinent to our community, the Islamic ummah and the world of Islam, should be brought to your attention and to the world of Islam today at the end of this splendid March. First, the idea of Jerusalem Day was among the very valuable historic measures taken by the imam of the ummah [Khomeyni], a concept which can be placed among instances of divine inspiration and sacred assistance. The measure was taken in the early days of the victory of the revolution and a suitable time was found in the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan. Today's international occasion is especially important, although throughout the past 10-12 years we have been faced with negative behavior by the arrogant Western media, which is opposed to the idea that this day should become established as Jerusalem Day, especially in the name of the imam and the Islamic Republic. We are faced, on the other hand, with the narrow-minded insincerity of many of the heads of movements in Islamic countries who do not welcome this very appropriate suggestion, because of jealousies and resentment against the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

The history of Palestine and the issue of Palestinian refugees and the creation of the usurper Israeli Government is one of the very very important problems of our age. It may even be the most important historical problem of this century, from the point of view of its dimensions and effects in history, in the past and in the future. Even such important issues as the Persian Gulf crisis, which sometimes over shadow that problem, are themselves only passing events. This problem has retained its importance in history. [passage omitted]

After 50 years of struggle to return to Palestine, the Palestine refugees are further away from their goal now than they were on the first day. This is a really strange thing. If everything had been quiet and this had occured, it would be justified. The fact that it has not been quiet—things have been said by governments, movements, parties, newspapers and in many places, and slogans have been chanted—nonetheless, backward steps have always been taken in the struggle.

Every day the number of refugees has increased. Every day, the number of Zionists in Palestine has increased. [passage omitted] Hope has decreased in peoples' hearts. Why is this the case? This is a very clear issue: It is clear that the presence of Israel is unjust. A several-million-strong nation is all refugees. They exist throughout the world; there are more of them in Arab countries, but there are substantial numbers in other countries. The people can see these refugees. The world can undoubtedly recognize the rights of the Palestinian nation and the rights over Palestine. It can undoubtedly see that Israel's presence is based on usurpation. The claims the Jews were here at the time of Moses is no excuse, for so many pieces of history have followed—Muslims have possessed this place for many centuries. [passage omitted] I have a long relationship with people who study the Palestinian issue and I still follow the issue with interest and I strongly believe that, sooner or later, the usurper Israeli Government will fall and the Palestinian nation will survive.

Eventually, it will return to the embrace of Islam and the Palestinian nation will seize their right. The Jews, too, who have unfairly committed this injustice, will have to answer for their actions. This is one of the historical mistakes of the Jewish nation. If the Jews had gone to some corner of the world where there would not have been so many negative effects and created a country for themselves, one of the isolated places in the world of which there are many, they would undoubtedly have been able to ensure a better future for the Jewish nation. They made a big mistake. Several million people, faced with over 1 billion Muslims, believe that they can always resist using the lever of Western arrogance. [passage omitted]

Let us see why things happened as they did during the last 50 years. Why have so many Muslim people been unable to deal with those several million people? The reason is very clear. We always say that it is a case of several million Jews against 1 billion Muslims, but that is not the reality. In reality, the Muslims, the Islamic and the Arabic fronts, have been faced with all the resources of Western and Eastern arrogance. That still remains the case. So the issue is really not the issue of a handful of Jews. The handful of Jews are the instruments and agents. They themselves are acting as agents, even though they may control the reigns of power in the United States or in Europe or have financial and propaganda resources, newspapers, radios, and political influence. They do have all of that, but they themselves are instruments. They are here to serve the interests of arrogance and colonialism. They are here to guarantee the export of cheap oil to the West. They are here to provide and guarantee the domination of Western arrogance, even though the powers supporting Israel act as if they are doing them a favor by supporting them. But that is not the case.

The truth is that all arrogance, all infidelity is standing before true Islam, and not before all Islam. The Islam which is corrupted by reactionary and imported ideas is

not confronting them; it is itself among the stooges. It is itself one of the parasites of arrogance and colonialism. All the resources of global arrogance and global infidelity confronts the true national and Islamic forces of the region. That is the reality. Their numbers are much greater. Their resources are much greater. They have many more levers in their control.

The location, which was selected, was selected with great precision. They had made all the calculations and any one who is a leader in the West supports Israel, because it is in his own interest. [passage omitted]

It is a location which controls the eastern Mediterranean. It controls the important strategic Suez Canal. It controls the important Gulf of Arabia. It connects Africa and Asia. It is a location which, with greedy eyes, overlooks the tremendous reserves of energy in the region. It is a place where all instruments have been gathered to create divisions among Muslims.

Truly, the next point is this: All these resources which are being used have a different aim. Truly, they know themselves that these several million Israelis will not have the strength to resist in the long term. They are undoubtedly thinking about expansion.

They are openly saying we will not return the Golan Heights. Many of them openly say, we will not return the West Bank, we will not return Beyt al-Moqaddas and we will not return the Gaza Strip. Some of them say, we will, but if conditions remain the same, that is directly against the traditional policy of Israel and arrogance. If they wanted to stay in the small area which they possess, inviting Jews from throughout the world to go there would be meaningless. Even as it is, the land of Israel is being suffocated by the huge population. You can see the price of bringing people from the USSR. Look, there were disturbances in Albania and they used the disturbances to quietly transfer all the Jews, which arrived in Israel in recent months. You saw before how many Jews they brought from Sudan. Now they are bringing a number of Jews from Ethiopia. This number of people does not fit within this piece of land. It is not possible. They have something else in mind. Well, they have even begun. In Lebanon, they advanced to Beirut. They were confronted by the admirable solidity of Hezbollah forces. They withdrew to the Litani River. Israel is thinking about expansion. Unfortunately, this is a very dangerous time. As a result of the vacuum which has occured in the world of Islam, because of this historic mistake of the Iraqi Ba'th Party, a bad situation has been created regarding their plans for expansion. Of course, vigilance has also been created, which we must maintain. Israel is thinking about expansion. Truly, if it is able, if it does not come up against a brick wall, if it does not face a serious wave of Islamic ummah, it will be able to expand a great deal more. God willing, they will not attain that hollow and dangerous hope which Western arrogance is harboring and Muslims will foil that great conspiracy. I predict that this will happen.

The West is beset by a serious contradiction [tazad] and has still not managed to resolve this contradiction, although it resolves it in an ad hoc manner and moves on. The fundamentals of life in the Western world and Western public opinion are based on the presence of the people and on democracy. All their deceptions, infiltrations, and seizures of power are under the slogan of democracy and the presence of people. The presence of people in our region, in the Middle East, in the Arab world and in the region is in exact contradiction of the expansion or the permanence of Israel. The fact that they have managed to remain until today, is due to the Arab people not being in the arena; because the decisions made in the Arab world, among their neighbors and in many Islamic states, was not in the hands of the people. Can it... that is, this is the way. [sentence as heard] If they want to continue the status quo, they must prevent the region's people from being present in the arena and ruling their own affairs forever.

Of course they have done this so far. They shout slogans, they lie as well, and even reprimand dictatorships, but when matters become serious you see that they call a halt. A recent example of this is Iraq. After all they were very angry at Iraq's Ba'th Party. When they say that the Iraqi people earnestly came and took up arms and there was a general uprising, we suddenly noticed that everything changed. This contradiction will eventually be the end of the West. This contradiction is not resolvable. The people are even more aware then before. Every day that passes the number of people who have become aware increases. Despite the fact that there are many agents to stupefy and deceive the people and distract them with marginal and ephemeral issues, the enlightenment movement, the vigilence movement, and science and knowledge are definitely evolving and the Islamic world is not deprived of this blessing. Just as the people become more aware and vigilant, the roots of Israel's existence will be weakened.

We see Israel as the crystallization of the presence of the West. The roots of the presence of the West, the presence of colonialism and arrogance in the region will be weakened. One day the West must eventually either openly desist from its demogogical claims of democracy, human rights and popular rule and state that it wants all this for itself, not for others—which is the case now and this is a difficult thing for them—or things will come to the point where the people will no longer allow them to continue in the same fashion. Even the movements that are ostensibly to the benefit of the West's domination will produce an opposite result because of the depth of awareness. I believe the present situation is the best example of this. America and her allies carried out the greatest military deployment of the century in the region, from a quantitative and qualitative viewpoint. They arrived to intimidate the region and to consolidate their domination. Eventually there was some thunder and lightening and they inflicted blows on some places, which we all know about. But let us see whether the movement I told you about was hit or not. Kuwait itself

was one of places ... principally Kuwait was the main target, the basic center of the battleground. Is there more wisdom, vigilance, and demands for rights in Kuwait today or a year ago? They are themselves answering this question.

A year ago the people in Kuwait did not say what they are saying now. This is now the home of America. This is where it has found a foothold. Clearly, it is not possible to curb this wave. When was there a clearer understanding in Iraq, today or yesterday? The Iraqis didn't even have the courage to light fire crackers. Today, they are using canons and mortar shells. They disarm the ruthless Republican Guards and take them captive. This is no small feat. We have two options: To use force or carry out a popular uprising. There has been an awakening among the people. We have a people who are aware of their rights. Do you think the people of al-Basrah or the people of Naseriyeh, who had the victorious U.S. Army within earshot, were not aware of America's dissatisfaction with their movement? Do you think that they did not have the intelligence to know that America was against their movement? I don't think there is anyone in the world who is not aware of this. The fact that they have found the courage to carry out their movement there, is a sign of great development. It is a great development in respect of Iraq. Jordan is suffering likewise. Algeria is also suffering. The same applies to Tunisia, and soon it will be other places facing the same fate. At any rate people are entering the stage—of course, the possibility exists that the popular uprising will be crushed once again—but they will rise again and again, every day stronger than the day before. That is how the trend of a struggle goes.

We ourselves, when we staged an uprising on 5 June 1963 were not massacred. The shah did not crush the movement in Tehran as Saddam has in al-Najaf today. Did the shah not crush Varamin? Did he not crush Qom? Nevertheless the same people continued their path by other means, and repeated the same scene again. If they had been crushed they would have risen again. The people's awareness precludes them from sitting still. This wave has drifted throughout the entire Islamic world, and the entire Islamic world considers Israel to be a usurper and its presence a humiliation. Now whenever the conditions are right for the people to enter the scene then, on that day these issues will be resolved. One day the Muslims will carryout their intention. This, however, requires a change in basic factors. Take a look at the dominant factors over the past 50 years: The power of the West, the sovereignty of the West, the unawareness of our people, the hegemony of the foreigners in our region, the presence of the Western agents and mercenaries taking the helm in our countries—the Islamic countries—the numerous mental and spiritual weaknesses, the lack of capable managers, the lack of competent leaders, and many other factors. Well, these things must change, otherwise I cannot expect a miracle. [passage omitted]

The wave of awakening in Iran chose the correct path, which was the path of Islam. The leaning of the Arabs on tribalism and language was among their mistakes. I am not saying that they should not lean on them. The tribal, language, race, national culture, and geographical factors, they all make an impact, but by right, the axis should have been Islam. An uprising by a Muslim Arab would have been much more effective than that by an Arab, be he Muslim or not, be he Marxist or Christian. That is what Iran did, and the imam led the path. [passage omitted] Seven or eight years passed and the wave of the Islamic awakening was disseminated to Palestine. As you know, they never allowed the Palestinians to practice Islam, they never allowed the Palestinian children to stride along the path of Islam, or teach them Islam. They trained the more revolutionary ones to be Marxists, and the more conservative ones to be liberals [as heard]. For the first time the sound of "Allah is Great" filled the air in the occupied territories, and for the first time the trenches moved inside the mosques. This was the greatest event of this decade. This is why you witnessed the rise of violence there.

The acts of violence committed by the Israelis in the occupied territories during these two or three years have been so bad, so cruel and so inhuman that even the Westerners, after they published the reports for a few days, saw that they were digging up their own dirt by publishing such things and put a stop to it. [passage omitted]

At any rate, we consider the means of liberating Palestine to be the Islamic awakening of the Islamic ummah, not absolute awakening but Islamic awakening. At the same time we do not believe that factors of nationality and Arabism and such things should be overlooked, because they too must exist, they must all coexist. We consider the existance of Israel to be that very nest of spiders which is mentioned in the Koran as the symbol of weak and desperate movements. We consider the rule of the Palestinian nation and Muslims to be the main and inviolable current continuing the chain of the prophets. [passage omitted]

At each juncture, each person has a duty. We, too, have a role to play at this juncture. If, God willing, we achieve the liberation of Palestine during our own lifetime, we will thank God. If we do not, we will know that our next generation will conquer it. [crowd chants support] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani Delivers Second Sermon on Gulf Crisis

LD1204153791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1205 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 12 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] As promised, I will solely devote the second sermon to a review of the Persian Gulf crisis and internal Iraqi issues. On this holy day our people expect to gain a more in-depth knowledge of those matters. Before I start I should stress the importance of carrying out one's religious duties and refraining from what is forbidden. God willing we will always be able to safeguard the achievements of Ramadan.

Now that a chapter of the Persian Gulf crisis is over, based on what we see we can make a clearer judgment. Of course, it is not a final judgment. We may learn new things from future developments and deepen our analysis.

If we look at the issue from the start of the incident, the spread of the crisis, the military clash, the disgraceful defeat of the Iraqi Ba'thists, and the subsequent events and the latest incidents—the unprecedented migration of the Iraqi people and the senseless cruelty they are subjected to—we can glean certain things. Without tiring you and within the context of the sermon, I will make number of points, but no doubt it is not the whole thing.

First, it is very clear that it was a war for oil and sovereignty, not one for human ideals and goals. From the outset our media called it the oil war. [passage omitted]

The Iraqis insisted on the point that the Iraqi people, the Iraqi Ba'th Party, and the Iraqi Government were the standard bearers of the struggle against colonialism, arrogance, and the presence of the West in the region and that they were punishing Kuwait because it is an U.S. agent. Iraq also was for Palestine. Even up until the last moment, approximately two or three hours before they announced that they had accepted all the U.S. conditions, they were telling us that they are sincere with their people, at one with the people, and that their people, to the very last person and to the very last Armed Forces soldier, had decided to die for Palestine and for the struggle against arrogance.

They did not budge an inch from this stance. Well, we told them this defeat might happen. They said there was no chance of this happening. They had made their choice; turned their lives back to the time before civilization; they chose to live as in the Middle Ages with no water, electricity, fuel—and even if it came to guerrilla warfare, they would break the back of arrogance right there. This was their aim. They even invited us. They said that we were saying the same slogans; come with us and we will do it together.

Now they have to answer. Why is it that whatever the United States says, they say: Yes, sir! They quickly organized their parliament and approved everything! But when it comes to their people, the same ones that were going to fight the United States with them sincerely, they treat them like this. This is amazing, really. There is nothing uglier than this, nothing more unfathomable or less justifiable than the scenes that we are now witnessing.

As soon as the Security Council comes and says that in two months time you have to destroy your weapons; in two months time you have to deliver this, that, or the other; this amount of oil must go toward damages; you are allowed to go to this point and not allowed to go to another point—they say we accept everything. They did not reject one of them! They said that this is really unfair. This is what they said, isn't it? They said this is really unfair, unjust, but okay, we will accept it. They say the reason for this is force. You may think the same, force is force and what is one to do?

Well okay, why is this human [Saddam] so hard and intransigent when it comes to his own people? Do you not want Iraq for the Iraqi people? Does this not belong to the people? We can come to a clear conclusion: No! The issue is saving a few people. Saving a politico-military sanctuary that safeguards one person. This is the issue.

Look how the hopes, wishes, beliefs, and analyses fell apart! For a while these Arab leaders would come and go and analyze the situation for us. They would talk to us. They were good characters. It is totally different now.

Let us tell you a few points, a few clear examples so that you see their claims, their aims, and how far they were from reality. There are seven or eight clear points to prove our claim. Do you remember those first days of the occupation of Kuwait? The extent the United States and all the West were preaching and sermonizing for the people of Kuwait? The repression that the Ba'thists were carrying out against the people of Kuwait? If someone does not recall the picture at that time, all they have to do is to be patient and review the Voice and Vision files.

Small points: One child in a hospital has died in this way. This became a calamity and was fed to the people of the world. They took a few of the Kuwaitis to the U.S. Congress! You saw that! In the U.S. Congress they were interviewed, the U.S. Congressional committee heads were all gathered together. This is how they added juice to their propaganda. What calamity has befallen them! One of them said: They took my car away from me. And for the other one... Of course, the Ba'thists' crimes in Kuwait were bad. What was the United States doing, what was the West doing?

Now you can see the problems of the Iraqi refugees. The tragedy that is unfolding concerning the plight of the Iraqi refugees is unprecedented in history. It may have existed somewhere; but we were not there at the time, we did not read the news, and history has not recorded it. The scenes we are witnessing now are nothing like the reality in the wilderness.

You see a a sick lady, barefoot, carrying her child, who tells you that one of her children was killed on the way to Iran, or that one of her children died of hunger. Or something like that. Yet the most tragic sight is a woman giving birth to a child, who then goes through the agony of not being able to breast-feed her baby because of the situation, and she sees her baby die in her arms. Such

sights are not rare; they are numerous. Then there is the tragedy of mothers having to bury their own dead children, using their own bare hands. They subsequently continue the trek on foot to save their own lives. Then there is the sight of these refugees having to kill a wild animal, such as a dog, a cat, or a donkey to eat their flesh. We have not seen these tragic sights, but these things are happening. Very tragic events are taking place in the Iraqi countryside. How can the Westerners see these things and not be shaken? Not be moved? Don't they regard themselves responsible for these events? I despair.

In the first interview I gave, I said that the consequences of these issues in the region will one day eventually afflict America. There are some people in the world who will eventually put the Americans on trial, telling them that the Americans must be held answerable for these events. It is not enough for America to say that it has not committed these crimes, and that the Iraqis committed these crimes. Such answers are not convincing for the people of the world.

Yes, the Iraqis are guilty of crimes; but so are you Americans. Anyone who embarks on such a major affair must definitely have drawn up a scenario foreseeing all these problems. That is no joke. When you want to move, when you intend to go on a trip, you make plans for the whole trip, making provision for every detail. How can you embark on such a major task—to turn a country upside down—and then ignore the resulting issues? How can you say it has nothing to do with you? How can you stay, yet close your eyes and keep silent?

Of course, having said this, I do not intend to imply that America has the right to interfere. I want to say that it is responsible. I want to say that it either deliberately created this chaos in Iraq—in which case it has committed a capital crime—or else it did not make the right kind of calculation. It may have thought: I do not care what happens—let's get there; what happens later takes care of itself. Even that kind of attitude is a crime when it comes from a superpower. It is not acceptable. All right, close your eyes; let your correspondents not report on what happens here. Your satellites are definitely taking pictures of these sights, but you do not show them to your people. Now will such an attitude solve the problem? These people will eventually get a reporter to tell the world what happened to them. [crowd chants]

My interpretation is that America has no replacement for Iraq's Ba'th Party or Saddam and that it accepts all this so that it may later gain something from all this carnage and destruction.

As I said earlier it concerns the people. The West has always been afraid of the people and will always be afraid of them because oppressive policies can never make the people happy. The West is willing to see the Iraqi people suffer.

When a famous French personage came and made that remark, it was an important and historical and political mistake, for which the French must be held answerable. He now holds an important position in Europe; he is the head of a big European organization. He expressed pleasure over the fact that the Shiites in Iraq were crushed so savagely and cruelly. If they had won, certain political conditions would have evolved there that would have been contrary to Western interests. Even a madman would not say such a thing, even if he believed it. [passage omitted]

America, France, and Britain believe it too. Their actions show it. Otherwise they would not deal with such an historical tragedy like that. How could one sleep comfortably at night while millions of people are wandering, homeless, because of one's actions? What could one say to one's conscience? [passage omitted]

The West is responsible for driving the refugees from their homes. It brought about the conditions in which they could not stay in their homes. If it was not done directly, it was done indirectly. The West said: If Iraqi helicopters do not come near us we have no objection; they can go and kill their own people. We will not interfere. [passage omitted]

You, the West, say it does not concern you. If so, why did you come to Kuwait? If it does not concern you, why did you defend the people of Kuwait? Either you are lying then, or you are lying now. You came to grab the oil, to establish your sovereignty over oil resources. You, the American nation, the French nation, must answer. That man who made those remarks: Either his nation agrees, in which case that nation [the French nation] is condemned. Or if that nation does not agree, it must answer.

How can you, the West, be happy when you see a group of people who for years were subjected to injustice, only to be killed like that when they made a move? Can you be content for such a thing to happen, because you think that if they have their say in their own country, in their own territory, then your interests may be lost? What loss? Are you not supporters of democracy and human rights? You go to Granada, claiming that there is a dictator who is a smuggler. They really have no answer. Of course, they have access to media, and they can accuse us of going too far. But these are logical issues that we raise, and they deserve answers.

The Iraqis, too, must be answerable. Saddam and the Ba'th Party brought these calamities on their people because of the incorrect stances they adopted. And now they accuse Iran. Does that solve the problem?

Well, if Iran wanted to interfere in Iraq, was there anything between Iran and Baghdad? Have you got soldiers on the border? Our forces who would cross the Arvand River so courageously, despite being confronted by 60 or 70 divisions, and then capture your troops, are still here. By coincidence, they are stationed along the border; they have not yet returned to their homes.

If we were to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs... [changes thought] You force two individuals, hypocrites [Mujahedin-e Khalq] to attack our border and to capture

two Revolutionary Guards. Then you show the two guards on your television screens, alleging that they had come to Iraq to disrupt the situation. Is that right? Is that how you answer your own people? Is that how you answer to the world of Islam and to the Arab world?

Well, brother, if the Islamic Republic, with all its might, had intended to interfere, then it could be present in many places. Saddam has made a mistake. He has destroyed his nation; now he must find an excuse. So he says that the Iranians have instigated people to revolt. This is surprising.

There is no one guarding your border, from Oshnaviyeh to al-Faw. There is not a single person. If there are, then how can the refugees cross the border? If you have presence on your borders, why do you allow the people to move on foot across borders extending over several hundred kilometres? If so, then turn them back. You are already inviting them to return.

It is obvious that you have no presence on the borders. So when we show so much integrity and refrain from showing any angry reaction to your accusations, then you must have understanding. You must not deceive the people. We really do not interfere. The people of Iraq are there; possibly some of them have crossed over from Iraq. When you have no one on the borders, then the poor Iraqi who has been made a refugee in Iran may well return. He may even do something and return. Are we responsible for guarding all your borders? Are we your appointed officials to stand guard on 1,300 km of borders to prevent any crossing? During the time you were entangled with the Americans, you knew how many goods were smuggled across to your side. [passage omitted]

Despite all your rhetoric, you have shown so much weakness before the West. You agreed to everything. You have left no honor for the Iraqi nation; indeed you have left no honour for the Arab world. The Libyan official who said that the Arab world was humiliated at this juncture was telling the truth.

Here I must now talk about our righteous stance. From the first instance we knew that Iraq had no right to attack Kuwait, nor did America have the right to come here. Both were engaged in a battle for oil. So we were not ready to send our Muslim youth to fight, either to keep Iraq in Kuwait or to keep America in Kuwait. We adopted a righteous stand. [passage omitted]

We did not know that you had invaded Kuwait. First we said you made a mistake, get out: You didn't. Later, when the Americans came with all that force and threatened war, we asked you, we pleaded with you, we sent you countless messages: Get out, unconditionally withdraw. At the last moment, when you came here on the way to Moscow—you were going to announce two hours later in Moscow that you have unconditionally accepted [the UN resolutions]—in the airport you told us that you were going to fight to the last breath. You were not sincere with us, even though we were the only country helping you. Even when you wanted to go to Moscow, you had to come to us. We took you from Qasr-e Shirin to Bakhtarn and then flew you from here [Tehran]. You had no other way. You know very well the amount of medicine, flour, cooking oil, and other goods that reached you from Iran. It got to the extent that the gentleman president of Turkey [Turgut Ozal] twice complained to me over the phone. He said Turkish foodstuff is being smuggled to Iran and sent to Iraq. I said well, stop the smuggling. You know this was the case—you breathed thanks to Iran. Because we opposed your invasion of Kuwait, however, we did not give you weapons. We did not give you military hardware, but the people gave humanitarian help. We turned a blind eye. All prices increased in Iraq—do you remember, two months ago, all foodstuff in Iran suddenly became expensive? Why? Because part of Iraq's needs were provided from here.

That gentleman [Saddam] was not sincere with us, even then. At the last minute, when he wanted to get out of Kuwait, he stung us. He said: Once upon a time, Muslims attacked a certain place seven times to be able to capture it. I am now getting out of Kuwait, as I got out of Muhammara, Khorramshahr, but in the end we will return. Look at that person. He extends his arm to us; he wants help from us; he wants gasoline from us; he wants bread from us. At the same time he says that eventually Iraq will return to Muhammara and Kuwait. Is this being sincere? He printed a map of Iraq—after he had sent letters accepting that the middle of the Arvand River, the Shatt al-Arab, is the boundary between the two countries—that put the boundry of Iraq this side of the Arvand River. Is this being sincere with us? Now they say that the Iranians stabbed them in the back. [Rafsanjani laughs] This is really amazing. [passage omitted]

Under dangerous conditions, all the world kept an eye on us. You had nowhere to go. You sent your planes over. We could have hit them in our airspace. It was dangerous for us to keep them. We didn't want their passengers to die for nothing, so we agreed to allow them to land. What a hue and cry the world started against us over these planes. This was an example of Iran's generosity, just one example.

When I think about this, all my being fills with pride. Think about it: The people of Iraq escape from the farthest corners to reach Iran. These are the same people whose country was at war with us for eight years. For eight or 10 years they have been fed with propaganda against Iran. They showed films showing how ruthless we are. They told lies. No other people have heard bad things about us to the same extent as the Iraqi people. That was the nature of their war. Now that they need refuge, they move toward Iran. He or she walks for 300 kilometers. The minute he or she reaches our border, they heave a sigh of relief. What can we understand from this? The Iraqi people have realized that Iran is a place that harbors human beings, a place that does not seek

vengeance, a place that thinks of humanity. [crowd chants support, "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "We are all brothers"]

Thank you very much. Let me finish the discussion. This is the most beautiful scene for the people of Iran. This is the most important source of pride for us. The West cannot believe it. In its propaganda, Iraq talked so much about our ruthlessness, our anger, and the radicalism of our system. They said the guards are like this, the committees are like that, the Basij are like this; they think that they are a bunch of irrational and ignorant people. This is the picture they painted to the world. Now, when they look, they are ashamed. Surely they feel shame.

Yesterday, there was a report that the rivers had burst their banks—Chowman River and Rezaq River—the rivers that the refugees have to cross. We did not invite them to come; their coming creates hardship for us. Our children saw that they would fall in the water, that their children were going to drown. Our children went onto Iraqi soil and erected a bridge over the river so that they could cross the river. In the middle of all our own troubles, we made camps, took food, dates, clothing, tents, and medicines. In the middle of all this, an engineering team reached that point and erected a bridge from Iraqi soil so that the people could cross the river without casualties. These are the same human beings who gave their blood to injured Iraqi POW's during the [Iran-Iraq] war, so that they would survive. These humans are truly noble. They are dear to us.

Our people are caring for over 1 million refugees though they have thousands of similar difficulties of their own. In the city of Zabol we have set up a crisis headquarters. The city of Zabol is in danger of flooding. The Zabol-Zahedan road has been cut off. Hundreds of thousands are surrounded by floodwater. One of our arms reaches that side [eastern Iran]; the other arm reaches the other side.

All our fabric factories are working harder to produce a few more tents simply to save a refugee. Yesterday, there was a discussion in the cabinet. Everyone is to mobilize; wherever you see tarpaulin, forget the regulations, go and buy tarpaulin from anywhere in the world. Bring it here, make tents, and give them to refugees so that they may be protected from the snow and the rain. We have floods in Bushehr, in Lar, in Bam; we have to see all those places. The reconstruction of the towns destroyed by the Saddamists still has to be completed. We still accept the refugees. This is what life means to us. Serving humans, serving the deprived has been our basic aim. This is no surprise to us.

It was the same during the [Iran-Iraq] war. When you hit and massacred the people of Halabjah we took the survivors, we put them on our military vehicles and brought them to this side of the border and took care of them. We took care of them until they felt it was safe to return. We will act the same in the future. While you were fighting the Americans, you know that we built camps along the whole border to receive your people after they were bombed. We were going to feed them. This is the way of the Islamic Republic. The unfair Western media, even now, gives an angry and irrational portrayal of Iran. [passage omitted]

The Western media make a big issue of aid. One plane comes from France, for example, and lands at Urumiyeh airport with 7 tonnes of supplies. Shame on you! Can one administer 1 million human beings like this? All this pretentious duplicity! Is this how you behave? [passage omitted]

With all your efforts, so far seven, eight, or 10 aircraft have brought old junk to this part of the world. What are you sending? What is coming out of great countries like France or Germany is equivilant to the amount of aid one of our villages sends to these people. One of our villages sends more than their planes; they send their rice, their dried milk. [crowd chants support]

Even with all the aid that the people of Iran are sending—it is a lot, it is unprecedented; nowhere in the world are people like this; I see guards and Basijs visiting houses to collect a piece of clothing, a heater, or a tin of dried milk to dispatch to the refugees; everyone is donating—even when we take all of this into acount, it is nothing compared to the cost that the state must bear. As I said, if we spend 50 tomans per refugee per day, it will cost 1.5 billion to 3 billion tomans a month. The figure is astronomical. We gathered all our assets from state companies. Nothing like this was predicted in the budget. We took from state companies, from what was set aside for natural disasters. We managed to collect 1.5 billion tomans to do the preliminary work. We have to think about the future.

Look at the way the West confronts the issue. They think they are loving humans, who care and help. They have thousands of important-sounding titles in the United Nations or Geneva or the Red Cross for relief work to refugees, and I don't know what. These organizations are set up to milk the people. What service have the given?

Whether the West helps or not, the people of Iran will treat the Iraqi refugees—as they did the Afghan refugees and those that come from Kuwait—as Muslim partners. What we have we will eat together with these people, and God will assist us. We can keep them, keep them safe. The favors that our people have done for the Kurds, even those wild Kurds who fought under the banner of Saddam against our people, those who come to Kordestan and engaged in terrorism, they are now ashamed. Their heads touch the ground. They are thinking: Who were we fighting against? Who was our opponent? This is a worthy scene resulting from our activities. This is what we are doing, we don't owe anyone anything, and we are still ashamed before our God. We think, we are worried, that we have not served them enough. Our duties may be more than this.

No one forces us to do this, but we are talking to you [as heard] we are talking to the world's media: we are talking to those who claim to defend human rights: we are talking to those who claim they are against oppression: we are talking to those who claim to defend democracy and the rights of the people. We say that you are lying. For no reason, you bombarded our innocent people with your propaganda for 12 years. Because of your long tongues, because of your loud horns, you will record in history that this was done by the West. You will do this in the end. [passage omitted]

May God protect you. I am really humble in front of you. I believe that if you had not given support in the way you did and were not present in the arena in this fashion, no one could have born all those hardships; no government could have been beset by problems in the south, north, east, and west and yet not bat an eyelid; and life could not continue in its usual way. This is because the people are in the arena. This is truly our popular work, our duty.

One thing that was rediscovered in this event was the nature of the hypocrites. When America was pounding Iraq, the hypocrites were quiet. They didn't give any interviews in Europe or in America. Now that the Iraqis are pounding the people, they have become active. America receives them to be interviewed; France interviews them. What is this? These discoveries are extremely valuable for our nation and for those who observe the events.

One of the West's contradictions [tanaqoz] was the issue of the environment. Do you remember those days when the oil was leaked into the sea? What loud propaganda was afoot. They kept showing the scenes of oil near the seashore, the birds with oil on their feathers. They showed these everyday in their films. Now that is finished, even with all those wells burning in Kuwait and polluting the region, the cowards show no hurry.

On the first day we sent a delegation to Kuwait and told them that we have a great deal of experience: Whenever our wells caught fire we put them out. During the war we put out wells under the sea. We are ready to quickly rebuild your refineries, as we did during the war. Let us extinguish those burning oil wells. We ourselves are sustaining damage. Our environment, our sea, and our agriculture are being damaged. It is two or three weeks since our delegation returned, yet there has been no reply. We told them: We will charge you less than them; they want to rob you. Whatever they charge, we will charge a bit less. We don't want anything: Let us come and extinguish them. They still have not been able to decide. Either America doesn't let them, or they don't want us. They tell lies when they talk about the environment. They don't want a clean environment for us but for themselves. They want to breath fresh air, we must breath smoke; this is their viewpoint. The wealth is burning away and they take no heed. [word indistinct] Kuwait has oil for 200 years. Let two or three years pass. They are basically not thinking of the Muslims, the nations. They have revealed many things during these events. Disgrace! Disgrace from both sides. Not just one side. Now we have nothing to gain from this or the other side. The story so far reveals that those who suffered a loss were the innocent peoples of Iraq and Kuwait.

The idols fought each other at the cost of the destruction of two states and so much misery. Their objectives were either domination or oil or both or other things. Or Israel or other things that must be discovered. No one can doubt the integrity of the stances taken by the Islamic Republic during those few months and in all its stages. They [as heard] have admitted this to a certain extent, but whether they admit this or not will not affect us much. We continue our path as delineated by our revolution, by our imam [Khomeyni], and today by our eminent, thinking, and aware leader. May God be satisfied with us. [passage omitted]

President Rejects Iraqi Charges, Criticizes U.S.

LD1204112991 Tehran IRNA in English 1101 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani today again rejected Iraqi charges that Iran was interfering in that country's internal affairs.

"You are mistaken. We are really not interfering in Iraqi affairs. If we intended to do so (during the Persian Gulf war) it was very easy for us. If we wanted to launch an attack, the distance from the border to Baghdad was not very long.

"It is true that the oppressed Iraqis who are in Iran have crossed the 1200-km-long borders and launch [as received] a campaign against you. But we are not responsible for this. We are not responsible for protecting your borders."

The president made the remarks in a large gathering of Muslim worshippers here after they held a massive rally on the occasion of the International Qods [Jerusalem] Day.

The president said Iran had adopted a rightful stance from the very outset of the Persian Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August last year.

"Each and every day we told the Iraqis that their occupation of Kuwait was wrong and that they should quit there. When the Americans came in we even begged you to leave Kuwait, but again to no avail. We helped you and you know that. For this even the Turkish president complained to us in his telephone contacts."

In return, regretted Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iraqis adopted a hostile stance against Iran. But he said despite all the Iraqi propaganda against the Islamic Republic, "you see how enthusiastically the Iraqi people are coming towards us."

He said the Iranian people were helping over one million Iraqi refugees under conditions that they were facing thousands of problems themselves.

"We have the problems of flood-stricken people in Zabol, Bushehr, Bam, etc. We have the problem of reconstructing our war-damaged cities. Yet we feel responsible to accept these Muslims. This is the policy of the Islamic Republic, but the Western media are writing against us. They did all they could to picture the Kuwaiti scenes, but to depict the tragedy of the homeless Iraqis they have done almost nothing."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also criticized the Western governments for not appropriately aiding the Iraqi refugees. He said they were making so much propaganda on the small quantity of aid they sent here. "Their aid is even less than that a single village in Iran contributes to the Iraqi refugees."

Elsewhere in his sermons, the president said it was now quite clear that the Persian Gulf war was "a war for oil and domination" [rather] than "a war for humanitarian causes."

He said the Americans claimed they were protecting the borders and supporting the Kuwaiti people. "Today, they must be accounted for. Has the situation changed? Why they do not care about the oppressed (Iraqi) people?"

The president said the Iraqis too pretended to be fighting for the cause of Palestine and for punishing Washington's satellites. "But today, they too should respond why they are obeying whatever the U.S. says. And instead, they are behaving so ruthlessly against the Iraqi people?" [sentence as received]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said when Iraq occupied Kuwait, the arrogance made a lot of claims regarding advocacy to humanitarian causes. "But how come now that such a great tragedy has befallen the Iraqi people and every day many of them are dying of cold and starvation, these events are not moving the Westerners?"

He said the world would not be convinced by the U.S. claim that Iraq alone was responsible for the homelessness of the Iraqi people. "Iraq is to blame, of course. But the U.S. too is responsible. Because they could predict the situation."

The prayer leader said the U.S. had no alternative for the Ba'th Party and therefore endorsed the present regime. He added that the day the U.S. said it would not mind if Iraq used its planes and helicopters against its people, "the go-ahead for the massacre of the Iraqi people was given on that same day."

Red Crescent Officials on Relief Efforts

LD1504111691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Messrs Ghayyuri, representative of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult; khamene'i] to the Red Crescent, and Vahid Dastjerdi, the head of the Red Crescent, gave a news conference at noon today on the latest relief efforts to help the Iraqi refugees. According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Ghayyuri referred to the command of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the revolution, to give more assistance to the Iraqi refugees, and he described the people's assistance as suitable. Ghayyuri said: Our plea to Friday imams and officials is for them to explain to the people that more help is necessary for the refugees. [passage omitted].

For his part, Mr. Dastjerdi, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent, referred to the fact that so far over 900,000 Iraqi refugees have entered the country and are in a poor state. He said: At the moment, Red Crescent forces have been mobilized in five border provinces and there is currently nothing in our warehouses. [passage omitted] In total, 10 billion rials worth of supplies have been sent to the west of the country, Dastjerdi said. He ended by thanking the people for their help.

Nepal

King Birendra Calls For Maximum Election Turnout

BK1404093291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0651 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Kathmandu, April 14 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal appealed Sunday for maximum voter participation in May 12 general elections here.

In his traditional message on Nepal's new year, King Birendra said a high voter turnout was important for the free and peaceful development of parliamentary democracy.

"This requires that every individual rises to the occasion to follow democratic values," he said, adding that "in a democracy every adult casts his ballot in a responsible choice charting the future of the country."

He also called on candidates in Nepal's first general election since 1958 to campaign in "the spirit of democracy."

"This will have a positive impact and enable voters to exercise their important right to vote freely and without fear," he added.

Some 11.1 million eligible voters are invited to choose between 1,346 candidates representating 21 political parties along with 219 independents contesting 205 seats in the House of Representatives.

Some 72,000 police and security personnel will be mobilized before and during the elections to guarantee security, official source said.

Communists Threaten Disruptions

BK1404122091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Kathmandu, April 14 (AFP)—The Masal faction of the Nepal Communist Party said Saturday it would boycott the national May 12 elections and threatened to disrupt the electoral process.

"We will launch agitation during the election to stop the people from going to the polls," a party spokesman said.

A politburo member of the Masal faction, Chitra Bahadur, said the boycott was to protest alleged corruption within Nepal's interim government.

"The main objective of boycotting the election is to bring to light the irregularities of those serving in the interim government," he said.

Addressing a public meeting in Pokhara, 225 kilometres (140 miles) west of Kathmandu, Mr. Chitra Bahadur also said his party rejected Nepal's new constitution as it had not been drawn up by a popularly elected assembly.

He also protested the candidacy of former leaders of Nepal's defunct partyless Panchayat system, who he held responsible for the suppression of pro-democracy activists in 1990.

Prime Minister Receives Sri Lankan Official

BK1304031691 Hong Kong AFP in English 2129 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Kathmandu, April 12 (AFP)—The permanent secretary of the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry Bernard Tilakratne paid a courtesy call on Nepal's Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, the state radio reported Friday.

Mr. Tilakratne, also met with the Nepalese Foreign Secretary Narendra Bickram Shah and South Asian Association for Regional Cooparation (SAARC) Secretary K. K. Bhargava, the report said.

Mr. Tilakratne arrived here Thursday for talks on preparing the agenda for the 6th SAARC Summit to be hosted by Sri Lanka in November, official sources said.

Pakistan

'Text' of Islamic Law Bill Published

BK1204114891 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Apr 91 p 5

[Text] Islamabad, April 11—Following is the text of the Shari'ah [Islamic Law] Bill moved in the National Assembly by the Minister of State for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Chaudhary Amir Hussain on Thursday [11 April].

A Bill for the enforcement of the Shari'ah.

Whereas sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to Almighty Allah alone, and the authority to be exercised by the people of Pakistan through their chosen representatives within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust.

And whereas Islam has been declared to be the State religion of Pakistan and thus it has become obligatory for all Muslims to follow the injunctions of the Holy Koran and Sunnah [practices of prophet Muhammad] to regulate and order their lives in complete submission to the Divine law.

And whereas it is one of the fundamental obligations of the Islamic State to protect the honour, life, liberty, property and rights of citizens and to ensure peace and provide inexpensive and speedy justice to all manner of people through an independent Islamic system of justice.

And whereas obscenity, immorality and gambling, prostitution and other moral vices which constitute negation of an Islamic State must be completely curbed and uprooted from the society.

And whereas it is necessary to enact laws in consonance with injunctions of the Holy Koran and Sunnah and through a recognised mode to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of the people of Pakistan and to give effect to their verdict in all respects which constitutes a pivotal pillar of Islamic jurisprudence.

And whereas in order to achieve the aforesaid objectives and goals, it is necessary to give to these measures constitutional and legal backing.

It is hereby enacted as follows.

1. Short title extent and commencement: (1) This Act may be called the enforcement of Shari'ah Act 1991.
(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.
(3) It shall come into force at once.
(4) Nothing contained in this Act shall affect the personal laws of the non-Muslims.

2. Definition: In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires "Shari'ah" means the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Koran and Sunnah.

Explanation: 1. While interpreting and explaining the Shari'ah, the recognized principles of interpretation and explanation of the Holy Koran and Sunnah shall be followed.

Explanation: 2. As envisaged in Article 227 of the Constitution, in interpreting the Shari'ah with respect to the personal law of any Muslim sect, the expression "Koran and Sunnah" shall mean the Koran and Sunnah as interpreted by that sect.

3. Supremacy of Shari'ah: The Koran and Sunnah (Shari'ah) shall be the supreme law of Pakistan.

4. Laws to be interpreted in the light of Shari'ah for the purpose of this Act:

(a) While interpreting the statute-law, if more than one interpretation is possible, the one consistent with the Islamic principles and jurisprudence shall be adopted by the Court, and

(b) Where two or more interpretations are equally possible, the interpretation which advances the Principles of Policy and Islamic provisions in the Constitution shall be adopted by the Court.

5. Observance of Shari'ah by Muslim citizens: All Muslim citizens of Pakistan shall order their lives according to the Shari'ah.

6. Teaching of, and training in, Shari'ah, etc: The State shall make effective arrangements.

(a) for the teaching of, and training in, the Shari'ah, Islamic jurisprudence and all other branches of Islamic law at appropriate levels of education and professional training.

(b) to include courses on the Shari'ah in the syllabi of the law colleges; and

(c) for the teaching of the Arabic language.

7. Islamisation of education: (1) The State shall take necessary steps to ensure that the educational system of Pakistan is based on Islamic values of learning teaching and character building.

(2) The Federal Government shall, within thirty days from the commencement of this Act, appoint a Commission consisting of educationists, jurists, experts, ulema and elected representatives as it may deem fit and appoint one of them to be its Chairman.

(3) The functions of the Commission shall be to examine the educational system of Pakistan to achieve the objectives referred to in sub-section (1) and make recommendations in this behalf.

(4) A report containing the recommendations of the Commission shall be submitted to the Federal Government which shall cause it to be placed before both the Houses of Majlis-Shoora (Parliament).

(5) The Commission shall have the power to conduct its proceedings and regulate its procedure in all respects as it may deem fit.

(6) All executive authorities, institutions and local authorities shall act in aid of the Commission.

(7) The Ministry of Education in the Government of Pakistan shall be responsible for the administrative matters relating to the Commission.

(8) Islamisation of economy. (1) The State shall take steps to ensure that the economic system of Pakistan is constructed on the basis of Islamic economic objectives, principles, and priorities.

(2) The Federal Government shall within thirty days from the commencement of this Act, appoint a Commission consisting of economists, bankers, jurists, Ulema, elected representatives and such other persons as it may deem fit and appoint one of them to be its chairman.

(3) The functions of the commission shall be:

(a) to recommend measures and steps, including suitable alternatives, by which the economic system enunciated by Islam could be established.

(b) to recommend the ways, means and strategy for such changes in the economic system of Pakistan so as to achieve the social and economic well being of the people as envisaged by Article 38 of the Constitution;

(c) to undertake the examination of any fiscal law or any law relating to the levy and collection of taxes and fees or banking or insurance practice and "procedure to determine" whether or not these are repugnant to the Shari'ah and to make recommendations to bring such laws, practices and procedures in conformity with the Shari'ah; and

(d) to monitor progress in respect of the Islamisation of economy, identifying lapses and bottlenecks if any and suggest alternatives to remove any difficulty.

(4) The Commission shall oversee the process of elimination of riba [interest] from every sphere of economic activity in the shortest possible time and also recommend such measures to the Government as would ensure

the total elimination of riba from the economy within a period of three years unless extended by the Majlis-i-Shoora (Parliament).

(5) The Commission shall submit its reports on a regular basis and at suitable intervals to the Federal Government which shall place the same before both the Houses of Majlis-i-Shoora (Parliament) and shall also respond to any queries sent to it by the Federal Government in respect of establishment of the Islamic economic order.

(6) The Commission shall have the power to conduct its proceedings and regulate its procedure in all respects as it may deem fit.

(7) All executive authorities, institutions and local authorities shall act in aid of the Commission.

(8) The ministry of Finance in the Government of Pakistan shall be responsible for the administrative matters relating to the Commission.

(9) Mass media to promote Islamic values: (1) The State shall take steps to promote Islamic values through the mass media.

(2) The publication and promotion of programmes against or in derogation to the Shari'ah, including obscene material shall be forbidden.

(10) Protection of life, liberty, property, etc: The State shall take legislative and administrative measures to protect the life, honour, liberty, property and the rights of the citizens and introduce administrative and police reforms for the purpose.

(11) Elimination of bribery and corruption: The State shall take legislative and administrative measures to eliminate bribery, corruption and malpractices and provide for exemplary punishment for such offences.

(12) Eradication of obscenity, vulgarity etc: Effective legal and administrative measures shall be taken by the State to eradicate obscenity, vulgarity and other moral vices.

(13) Eradication of social evils: The State shall take effective measures for enactment of laws eradicating social evils and promoting Islamic virtues on the principles of Amr bil ma'aruf wa nehi anil munkar [God's commandment to do rational things and to refrain from improper acts] as laid down in the Holy Koran.

(14) Nizam-i-adl [judicial system]: The State shall take adequate measures for the establishment of an Islamic system of justice by eliminating law's delays, multiplicity of proceedings in different courts, litigation expenses and ensuring the quest for truth by the court.

(15) Baitul Mal (Welfare Fund): The State shall take steps to set up a Baitul Mal for providing assistance to the poor, needy, helpless, handicapped, invalids, widows, orphans and the destitutes.

(16) Protection of the ideology of Pakistan etc: The State shall enact laws:

(a) to protect the ideology, solidarity and integrity of Pakistan as an Islamic State;

(b) to prevent acts of terrorism, sabotage and disruptive activities; and

(c) to prevent the possession and display of illicit arms.

(17) Safeguard against false imputations, etc: The State shall take legislative and administrative measures to protect the honour and reputation of the citizens against false imputations, character assassination and violation of privacy.

(18) International financial obligations, etc. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any decision made thereunder the financial obligations incurred or which may be incurred, and contracts made or which may be made, before or after the commencement of this Act, between a National Institution and a Foreign Agency shall continue to remain valid, binding and operative till an alternative economic system is evolved.

Explanation: In this section the expression "National Institution" shall include the Federal Government or a Provincial Government, a statutory corporation, company, institution, body, enterprise or any person in Pakistan and the expression "Foreign Agency" shall include a foreign government, a foreign financial institution, foreign capital market including a bank and any foreign lending agency, including an individual and a supplier of goods and services.

(19) Fulfilment of existing obligations: Nothing contained in this Act or any decision made thereunder shall affect the validity of any financial obligations incurred including under any instruments whether contractual or otherwise, promise to pay, or any other financial commitments made by or on behalf of the Federal Government or a Provincial Government or a financial or statutory corporation or other institution to make payments envisaged therein, and all such obligations, promises and commitments shall be valid, binding and operative till an alternative economic system is evolved.

(20) Rules: The Federal Government may by notification in the official gazette, make rules for carrying out the purpose of this Act.

Having regard to the will of the people of Pakistan to make the country a truly Islamic State wherein amongst other things:

(a) a just social order shall be established ensuring equality between citizens, a society free from exploitation, protection of the life, liberty, property and rights of the citizens and availability of inexpensive and speedy justice to all manner of people through an independent Islamic system of justice:

(b) adequate provisions are made according to Shari'ah to eliminate bribery, corruption and malpractices, and

(c) obscenity, immorality and other social evils are eradicated.

This Bill declares that the Shari'ah that is to say the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Koran and Sunnah, shall be the supreme law of Pakistan, requires all Muslim citizens of Pakistan to faithfully observe the Shari'ah and casts upon the State the duty to

—make effective arrangements for the teaching of and training in the Shari'ah and Islamic jurisprudence;

—take adequate measures to ensure an Islamic system of justice and to save the people from the necessity of resorting to several courts;

—bring about police reforms to ensure that the life, honour, liberty, property and rights of the citizens are protected;

—make effective provisions by law to combat the offences of corruption of all sorts;

—take steps to set up a Baitul Mal for providing assistance to the poor, needy, widows, orphans and the destitute;

—take effective legal and administrative measures to eradicate obscenity, vulgarity and other moral vices;

—enact laws to protect the ideology, solidarity and integrity of Pakistan;

—undertake legal measures to prevent the possession and display of illicit arms;

—take steps to ensure that the economic system of Pakistan is constructed on the basis of Islamic economic principles, values and priorities and appoint a Commission consisting of economists, bankers, jurists, ulema and elected representatives measures and steps, including suitable alternatives by which the Islamic economic system could be established and to monitor progress in respect of the Islamisation of the economy and oversee the whole process of elimination of Riba from every sphere of economic activity within a period of three years;

—take steps to promote Islamic values through the mass media;

—take steps to ensure that the educational system of Pakistan is based on Islamic values of learning, teaching and character building and to appoint a Commission consisting of educationalists, jurists, experts, ulema and elected representatives to make recommendations for the purpose;

—take effective measures for enactment of laws eradicating social evils and promoting Islamic values on the principles of "Amrbil Ma'aruf Wa Nehi Anil Munkar" as laid down in the Holy Koran.

(21) In order to prevent the disruption of the economic system of Pakistan and to honour sanctity of agreements, the Bill seeks to protect the validity of the financial obligations and contracts between a national institution and a foreign agency until an alternative economic system is evolved.

Major Religious Parties Reject Shari'ah Bill

BK1304162891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1539 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Islamabad, April 13 (AFP)—Pakistan's main religious parties Saturday rejected a government bill to enforce Islamic Shari'ah law saying it seeks to continue the interest-based economy, which is prohibited by Islam.

The government presented the bill to the National Assembly Thursday after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif made a policy statement on the application of Shari'ah in the country.

The bill, which seeks to declare the Shari'ah as the supreme law of the country, envisages the elimination of usury, or loaning money with interest, from the economy within a period of three years along with a provision that the parliament can extend this period.

"The religious parties cannot accept the continuation of interest-based system which the government bill seeks to achieve in the name of Shari'ah," a joint statement issued by the eight-party front said.

The grouping includes fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami, a key component of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), both factions of another influential fundamentalist party, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, and pro-Iran Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Fiqah-i-Jafria representing Shiite Moslems.

Describing the bill as ill-conceived, the front said that the government had also failed to introduce the promised amendment to the Constitution to declare Shari'ah as supreme law.

The government did not present a constitutional amendment, although it was promised by Mr. Sharif, when it introduced the Shari'ah bill in the assembly on Thursday.

The fundamentalist front said that despite its stated intention to accord supremacy to Shari'ah, the government was trying to "protect the usury-based system to please the foreign masters".

"The parliament has no power to vote for continuation of the un-Islamic system of usury," the statement said.

The eight parties demanded the enactment of a private Shari'ah bill which was passed by the senate last year despite a bitter controversy over its rigid theocratic approach. That bill had lapsed as the lower house was dissolved in August 1990.

The parties decided to meet again on April 23 to determine a future course of action after a committee has submitted a detailed report on the issue.

Religious Parties Demand Replacement of Bill

BK1504024891 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Apr 91 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, April 13—The eight-party Forum of religious parties on Saturday rejected the Government-sponsored Shari'ah [Islamic Law] Bill and demanded its replacement with the Bill passed by the Senate during the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government.

The demand to introduce the original Shari'ah Bill was voiced at a meeting of the heads of these parties held here on Saturday at the residence of former Federal Minister Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, where the religious leaders reviewed the official Shari'ah Bill as well as the speech of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the issue.

The original Bill, as passed by the Senate, was opposed by Tehrik Nifaz-i-Fiqah-i-Jafaria [TNFJ]. However, TNFJ chief Allama Sajid Ali Naqvi was present at today's (Saturday's) meeting which demanded enforcement of the original Shari'ah Bill.

The leaders were of the opinion that the Government, while introducing a "diluted" Shari'ah Bill, had cleverly withdrawn the constitutional powers of the Federal Shari'ah Court over the fiscal laws. A spokesman for the Forum briefing newsmen, said the leaders were "annoyed" that the Prime Minister had allowed the present financial system based on interest to continue.

They said the Government could not be given the authority to continue this un-Islamic fiscal system even if it had majority in the National Assembly and the Senate. "To continue this fiscal system is an open war against God and His Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and a negation of the Government's claim of making Pakistan an Islamic welfare state," the religious leaders declared, accordingy to the spokesman.

They maintained that the present financial system was making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

The religious leaders claimed that much work had already been done for the implementation of an interest-free financial system and it could be implemented "within a day" if the Government was really sincere in its enforcement.

They warned the Government that the Ulema would not compromise on the supremacy of Shari'ah, nor accept any delay in moving the constitutional amendment and other changes in the required laws.

A committee was formed to consider the contradictions between the Government-sponsored Shari'ah Bill and Shari'ah. It would present its report to the Supreme Council of Tehrik Nifaz-i-Shari'ah [Movement for the Enforcement of Islamic Law].

JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam] (S) members Senator Samiul Haq and Qazi Abdul Lateef; Jamaat-i-Islami chief Qazi Husain Ahmed; TNFJ, chief Allama Sajid Naqvi; JUI (F)'s Maulana Mohammed Khan Shirani, JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan] Niazi Group's Saleemullah Khan and Jamiat Ahl-i-Hadith chief Prof. Mohammed Yahya would be members of the committee.

The committee would hold its session on April 22 at the central secretariat of JUP (Niazi) at Lahore while the Supreme Council of Tehrik Nifaz-i-Shari'ah would meet the following day at Jamaat-i-Islami's headquarters at Mansoora to consider its report.

Today's (Saturday's) session was attended by Allama Naqvi, Senator Hussain Ahmed, Qazi Abdul Lateef, Prof Mohammad Yahya, Aga Murtaza Pooya, Mian Attaullah, Maulana Paiz Rasool Faiz, Syed Shabbir Hussain Naqvi and Saleemullah Khan.

Later, Ataullah Khan, former Railways Minister, hosted an Iftar dinner in honour of the leaders.

Azad Jammu, Kashmir Elections Moved to 29 Jun

BK1304112891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Elections to the AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] Legislative Assembly will now be held on the 29th of June this year instead of the second of July which fell beyond the 90-day stipulated period. This was stated by the AJK prime minister, Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, at a news conference in Muzaffarabad today. He said the decision to change the date was a constitutional requirement and efforts should be made to hold free and fair elections.

Talks With USSR on Afghanistan Planned

BK1404102891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Islamabad, April 14 (AFP)—Moscow is sending a high powered delegation to Islamabad for talks on Afghanistan amid a flurry of diplomatic activity to resolve the 12-year-old war, a senior Foreign Office official said Sunday.

The talks, proposed by Moscow, are expected later this month, Inamul Haq said, adding the date had yet to be finalised.

He said Pakistan welcomed the offer which coincides with its own hopes of finding a peaceful political solution to the problem.

The Soviet delegation, empowered to hold substantial negotiations, will be led by a senior Foreign Ministry official.

This will be the first direct contact between Moscow and Islamabad after the Afghan resistance's surprise capture of the strategic eastern garrison city of Khowst.

The victory at Khowst on March 31 served as morale booster for the mujahidin guerrillas fighting the Moscow-backed regime in Kabul.

Kabul has blamed the Pakistani army for the Khowst debacle saying it was directly involved in the attack, although Islamabad, which harbours more than three million Afghan refugees and provides moral and material support to the resistance, has denied the charge.

Soon after the fall of Khowst, Pakistan, embarked upon a diplomatic initiative to seek a political settlement to the conflict which has left more than a million people dead.

The Pakistani Foreign Office has contacted Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States, who all support various factions of the mujahidin, as well as United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to step up efforts for a peaceful resolution.

Islamabad wants to replace the regime of President Najibullah with a broadbased government in Kabul acceptable to a majority of Afghans's set up with the assistance of the U.N.

Last week the U.N. secretary general's personal envoy on Afghanistan, Benan Savon, traveled to Kabul and Islamabad for a first round of exploratory talks on a settlement, official sources said.

Reports from New York said Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh also responded positively to the U.N. efforts.

In a letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar the Soviet foreign minister reportedly said Moscow would like to resolve the Afghan issue "by the end of the current year."

The letter, however, follows the rejection of the Pakistani initiative by several hardline resistance leaders who, vowing to pursue a military solution, said they were planning further offensives on other Afghan cities.

Sources said the Soviet Union has not proposed any formula.

But observers said both Moscow and Kabul want an end to the fighting as a prelude to peace.

Informed sources said Pakistan has sounded out mujahidin leaders on the forthcoming talks and, if desired, the Soviet delegation could also hold direct talks with the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance leaders.

Sri Lanka

Women, Children Among 17 Killed by LTTE

BK1504095291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 17 persons, including women and children, have been shot dead by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants in the eastern part of the island. Military officials in Colombo said today that the group of militants armed with automatic weapons attacked the residents of Ettimalle village last night, when they were resting after celebrating the Sinhalese New Year. Militants fled afterwards seeing the blaze of a few huts.

In two separate encounters in the northern and eastern part of the island, six soldiers and an equal number of LTTE militants were killed. Five soldiers were killed when LTTE men attacked a military camp at Vellai Oya in north-central Polonnaruwa. In another incident, six LTTE militants were killed when the government troops repulsed another attack at a military camp in northeastern Trincomalee District. One soldier also died in the fighting.

Security Forces Capture 2 LTTE Strongholds

BK1304113091 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The security forces on Thursday [11 April] captured the LTTE strongholds of Adampan and Bappamotai in their sweep through terrorist-held areas in the northwestern district of Mannar. Official sources said the terrorists fled as two battalions of crack government troops entered the two towns. Two truckloads of fleeing LTTE cadres were destroyed. The strategic junction town of Nanaddan and Mantai were captured earlier. Security forces are in control of Mannar Island and the entire coastal belt stretching from the southern border of the Mannar District to north of the causeway, crippling LTTE logistics for smuggling operations from the south Indian coast.

Army Commander General Hamilton Wanasinghe told the LANKAPUVATH the current operation to clear the Mannar and Vavuniya Districts were successful and going well. The security forces had enlarged their area of control in both districts and were consolidating their positions. Referring to the terrorist killing of nine policemen earlier this week in Talaimannar, Gen. Wanasinghe said cordon and search operations are on. The LTTE had attacked the naval base of Karainagar as a diversionary tactic and were forced to withdraw, Gen. Wanasinghe said.